

Assad, Mubarak discuss coordination

CAIRO (Agencies) — The leaders of Syria and Egypt, key players in U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts, met Saturday for policy coordination on the eve of a crucial regional tour by Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting came amid suggestions by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for five-way high-level Arab coordination to prepare for a peace conference this month co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. After more than four hours of talks, Mr. Mubarak escorted Mr. Assad to the airport to send him off. They did not speak to reporters. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad spent two hours alone, and then called in Syria Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and presidential advisor Osama Al Baz for a working lunch. The two presidents, who have consulted closely on the proposed peace conference, made no statement after the meeting. Officials were not immediately available for comment. Mr. Baker is due in Egypt on Sunday at the start of his eighth Middle East peace mission since the end of the Gulf war in February. He will go on to Jordan, Syria and Israel.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي

Kuwait says 50 'Iraqis' held

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti coast guard units have arrested 50 sea-borne Iraqis who allegedly tried to infiltrate the emirate, interior ministry sources said Saturday. One source said the units spotted seven boats carrying the alleged infiltrators inside Kuwait's territorial waters Thursday night. "When the units approached the boats, the infiltrators tried to escape," said the source. "But the coast guards fired warning shots in the air and then arrested the infiltrators." The source refused to specify where the incident took place. He also did not say whether the Iraqis were armed or not, or whether they were civilian or military. But his statement indicated there was no clash, and that the boats stopped after the shots were fired. The source said the Iraqis were being interrogated. Several cross-border incursions, mainly by smugglers and scavengers looking for weapons and ammunition left by Iraqi troops, have been reported by the United Nations and Kuwaiti officials in recent weeks. Kuwait said in August it captured 84 Iraqis trying to infiltrate the strategic Bubiyan island in the Shatt Al Arab waterway that is Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf. Western security sources said the Iraqis were scavengers.

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King announces Jordan's decision to attend peace conference

Addressing national congress, King explains Jordan's position, regional and international situation and elements of the framework of peace parley

- We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people
- Achieving peace is a national duty
- Peace concerns our present and future and has an impact on our continuity
- Sense of responsibility, courage, discipline, nationalism and awareness are needed to defeat negativism

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday announced Jordan's unequivocal decision to participate in the proposed peace conference on the Middle East saying Jordan's decision is not a departure from previous Jordanian and Arab policies and that attendance was necessary to protect the state and the interests of the Jordanian people.

"We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people and to enable us to lead a normal life," King Hussein told the na-

tion in an address to the Jordanian National Congress, which was especially convened for the occasion.

In his wide-ranging speech, which tackled the fundamentals of Jordan's position and strategy vis-a-vis peace in the region and the realities that confront the Kingdom, the King also disclosed details of some assurances that the U.S. administration has provided to Jordan and the basis on which the proposed peace conference will be held.

The King described his address to the congress as "a frank and open discussion to ascertain current real-

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday addresses a Jordanian national congress (photos by Youssef Al 'Alam)

Reagan visit Morocco

RABAT (AP) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, arrived here Saturday for a five-day private visit. The Reagans began their trip in the capital of Rabat, where they will be King Hassan II's guests of honor at a dinner Sunday, the MAP news agency reported.

Thousands join anti-racism protest in Germany

BONN (R) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through several German cities Saturday to protest against a wave of neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners. Police said around 3,000 people attended the largest march in Saarbrücken. Smaller demonstrations were held in the states of Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia.

4 sentenced to hang, crucified in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A court sentenced four highway robbers to be hanged, under Sudan's strict Muslim law, the official news agency reported Saturday. The Sudan Arab News Agency (SUNA) said the four were convicted of "spreading corruption on earth" as well as armed robbery and firearms offences. The sentences passed in the western Sudan city of Al Fasher must be endorsed by Omar Hassan Al Bashir, head of the ruling military junta in Khartoum.

Algerian court rejects release of Islamists

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian court ruled on Saturday that Islamic fundamentalist leaders, held by the military after unrest in June, must stay in detention. The Algerian news agency APS said the court at Blida, where Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders are held, ruled against a defence request for their provisional release. APS said the court confirmed the order issued by the military examining judge.

Gandhi's widow says no to politics

NEW DELHI (R) — Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has turned down an offer from his ruling Congress Party to enter politics, Indian news agencies reported on Saturday. They quoted Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as saying the refusal of Sonia Gandhi, 44, was definitive. "No, repeat no," Mr. Rao quoted her as telling him during a meeting on Saturday morning to find out if she would run for parliament, where Congress forms a minority government.

PLO 'still awaiting U.S. assurances'

Both sides report progress made in Washington talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday he was still waiting for assurances from Washington on the planned Middle East peace conference.

"We are still waiting for American clarification regarding points we have raised, notably the questions of Jerusalem, (Jewish) settlements, and Palestinian representation," he told reporters.

Senior PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo said earlier Palestinian leaders who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this week did not obtain the assurances they wanted.

He said Washington had not given "a positive and adequate response" regarding a halt to the creation of Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, nor on Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference.

But Mr. Arafat hinted that Washington's attitude was not final.

"We are waiting for clarification, and we will study all that with the answers received from Soviet leaders," he said.

Mr. Baker embarks on Sunday

on his eighth trip to the region since the end of the Gulf war, which will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Israel.

Mr. Arafat was speaking after meeting the Soviet ambassador in Tunis who handed him the second message he has received from Moscow in three days.

"I have just received a message from Soviet leaders about the peace process and certain points raised by our delegation to Moscow," he said.

"There has been a contact between (Soviet Foreign Minister Boris) Paskin and Mr. Baker and we have received answers to the questions raised by our delegation."

Three members of the PLO's executive committee, including Mr. Abed Rabbo, met Soviet leaders in Moscow on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Arafat did not reveal the contents of the Soviet message but Mr. Abed Rabbo said earlier the Soviet response had been positive.

Israel demands a right of veto on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, refusing to accept PLO leaders or representatives of

Arab East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians reject these conditions, which they consider humiliating.

The PLO's Executive Committee began meeting Saturday to evaluate the results of the Moscow talks and Friday's contacts in Washington between Mr. Baker and the Palestinians.

Mr. Abed Rabbo also said Mr. Arafat and a Palestinian delegation would go to Amman in the next few days to discuss a possible joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as suggested by Washington.

Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev are due to issue invitations to the conference before the end of this month.

Following the Washington talks between U.S. officials and a group of Palestinians, both sides claimed progress, raising the possibility the Palestinians may be ready to agree to negotiate with Israel.

The statements were issued without elaboration Friday after Secretary of State James Baker concluded his second meeting in two days with a Palestinian group.

The Palestinians' spokesman, Faisal Husseini, told reporters

there would be "some contacts" before Mr. Baker departed late Saturday to the Middle East.

Mr. Baker is hoping for a statement from the Palestinians, possibly in Amman, that they are prepared to join a delegation with Jordan and participate in the conference.

Mr. Husseini told reporters he was leaving Washington but did not say where he was going. He has also indicated he is keeping in close touch with the PLO.

Mr. Husseini Thursday night refused to the PLO organisation as "the decision-maker."

"The meeting was a serious one and we made some progress," Mr. Husseini said Friday.

This was followed by a similar statement by a U.S. official, who told reporters they should not identify him.

"We agree with Faisal Husseini that some progress was made," the official said. "These were serious talks, and we stay in touch."

Mr. Baker has scheduled another meeting with a Palestinian delegation next Wednesday in Jerusalem.

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Turkey sends troops into Iraq

CUKURCA, Turkey (Agencies) — Turkey sent thousands of troops backed by combat planes and helicopters to crush rebel Kurds in northern Iraq Saturday, a military source said.

He said about 3,000 Turkish commandos, 200 civilian guards and special security teams had entered Iraq near the towns of Cukurca and Uludere. The action followed eight bombing sorties against Turkish Kurds bases Friday.

The source, speaking in Cukurca, told Reuters: "The operation started again this morning."

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Friday Turkish planes had made eight bombing sorties against bases of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

The Kurds have been fighting since 1984 for an autonomous state in southeastern Turkey.

The source said mortars with a nine-kilometre range were also used in the attacks on bases in the Rejkan and Merve region of northern Iraq, 15-kilometres from Cukurca. He said fighters and helicopters had taken part in the attack.

Turkish units entered Iraq through their border town of Uludere, 70-kilometres west of Cukurca, to attack PKK bases in Kasrok near Zakho, the source said.

A spokesman for the Kurdistan Front, representing the Iraqi rebel groups Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said Friday's raids had killed three Kurdish Peshmarga guerrillas and wounded nine others.

Halis Bozali, who crossed the border Saturday into Turkey, told reporters in the border town of Silopi the wounded had been taken to hospital in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho.

He said he had asked the Silopi governor, Osman Yildiz, to ask the Turkish government to "stop raids on the Kurdish people."

In a statement released in London Massoud Barzani, leader of the KDP, condemned Friday's air attacks on Kurdish villages in northern Iraq and urged Turkey to stop the raids.

The statement said six men and one woman were seriously injured in the attacks and that casualty figures could rise.

Mr. Barzani said: "We call upon the Turkish authorities to stop immediately these air attacks on innocent civilians."

The Iraqi newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said five Iraqi villages had been attacked by Tur-

Israel must compromise on occupied lands — Abu Jaber

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — Israel is out of step with world opinion in continuing to occupy Arab territories and has no choice but to withdraw, Jordan's new foreign minister said Saturday.

Kamel Abu Jaber, appointed 10 days ago in a cabinet reshuffle, also said Arabs had nothing to lose if Arab-Israeli peace talks, due to start later this month, failed.

"Israel must come into step with the rest of the world," Mr. Abu Jaber told Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews.

He spoke as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, scheduled to arrive in Jordan Monday, was due to leave on his eighth tour of the region to finalise the talks.

Wide differences still remain between the Palestinians and Israel, which has shown no sign of softening its stand on Palestinian representation and its refusal to cede Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel rejects U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 urging it to withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace guarantees with

the Arabs. It also refuses to accept the participation of Palestinians chosen by the PLO in the peace talks.

The two Security Council resolutions, the basis of the proposed talks, are accepted by the Arabs and the Palestinians as the foundation for any peace.

"Arabs will not lose from going to the conference," said Mr. Abu Jaber. "If we manage to get back the occupied territories and Jerusalem, this will be welcomed by everyone."

"And if it fails, the international community will point out the Israelis as having obstructed peace."

He said the Palestinians had not decided on whether to accept Amman's offer of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the peace talks "but hopefully they will do so in the next few days."

Jordanian officials said Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Jordan after Mr. Baker's talks.

They said Palestinians were delaying the issue as long as possible to secure further assurances from Washington on halting Israeli settlements and on Palestinian representation.

Accord signed for \$100m Shidiyeh fertiliser plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An agreement to set up a \$100 million plant to produce phosphoric acid in Jordan was signed Saturday between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and an Indian firm.

The project, the first fertiliser joint venture between Jordan and India, is expected to be operational by the end of 1993, officials said.

The equity of the new entity, to be known as Indo-Jordanian Fertiliser Company, is set at \$25 million; the rest of the cost of the project will be raised through loans.

The JPMC's share of the equity will be \$10 million in infrastructure and administrative support while the Indian partner, the Southern India Petrochemicals Company (SIPC), will come in with \$15 million, mostly in the form of equipment and technological support.

JPMC Managing Director Wasef Azar, who signed the agreement along with SIPC Vice-President A.I. Muthiah, described the project as a "new step and cornerstone in relations between Jordan and India" in that it is the first Indo-Jordanian joint venture to materialise after years of deliberations.

The plant will be set up near

the JPMC's southern Shidiyeh mines in an area designated as free zone, thus enabling the project to enjoy a package of incentives, including a 12-year tax holiday.

JPMC officials said the Ministry of Industry and Trade had granted the plant the status of a "national economic" project, thus offering it a series of additional advantages and incentives.

The entire 200,000-tonne annual production of phosphoric acid at the plant is expected to be purchased by the Indian government as well as various private sector Indian fertiliser industries at one or two per cent less than the international prices for the commodity.

Mr. Muthiah of SIPC, which is reputed as one of the most efficient chemical-related industries in India, said he expected the Shidiyeh plant to be operational in 24 to 27 months.

Work on the project, which will create 150 skilled and semi-skilled job opportunities for Jordanians, is expected to begin immediately.

India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates and related products. The volume of the Indian imports from the Kingdom is expected to be worth close to \$200 million this year.

Industry sources said efforts

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Iran said planning to recall its guards deployed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran has decided to withdraw its Revolutionary Guards whose deployment nine years ago inspired Shiite Muslim fundamentalism in Lebanon, two prestigious publications reported Saturday.

If implemented, the decision would at a stroke strip guerrillas fighting Israel of their main logistical and training support and the groups holding Western hostages of their moral backing.

A Revolutionary Guard withdrawal would also increase pressure on the Jewish state to dismantle its self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south as the United States strives to organize a Middle East peace conference.

The newspaper Al Nahar, Lebanon's leading daily publication, said Tehran has officially notified Beirut of its decision to recall the Revolutionary Guards.

Nahar's unsourced report did not say when the withdrawal would begin, or provide other details.

However, the weekly Al Shiraa magazine said the guards would be leaving "in the near future." It said they would move out in batches, and that only a "minimal number" would stay on to offer "social services" to the Shiite community.

Some 3,000 Revolutionary Guards were dispatched to Lebanon in 1982 to help fight the Israeli army which invaded the country in June of that year.

After the invasion, the guards stayed on and concentrated on spreading the teachings of their patriarch, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, among the Shiites.

In 1983, the guards formed Hizbollah (Party of God) and began training and arming young Shiites. Hizbollah has since grown into a sizeable force of 3,000 to 4,000 hardcore fighters. It also is the umbrella for kidnap groups holding most of the Westerners missing in Lebanon — five Americans, a Briton, two Germans and an Italian.

Sudan rebels split, hindering relief effort

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Two factions of Sudan's rebel movement are battling each other for supremacy, complicating efforts to ship humanitarian aid to the drought-stricken country, according to a top U.N. official.

However, peace talks between the rebels and the Sudanese government are expected to open soon in Abuja, Nigeria, said James Jonah, the U.N. under-secretary-general in charge of relief efforts for the Horn of Africa.

"In October, the talks should start," said Nigerian mediator, Mr. Jonah said.

Mr. Jonah confirmed that the Sudanese rebel movement is divided as he issued an appeal for donor countries to give more for relief efforts in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia.

The United Nations had appealed for \$400 million for aid for about 22 million people in the three countries for the remainder of 1991, but only \$110 million has been pledged so far, he said.

"Donor distraction" from other crises and emergencies around the world have contributed to the disappointingly low pledges for the Horn of Africa relief effort, Mr. Jonah said.

Confusing and contradictory reports have emerged from Sudan in recent weeks over whether some of the rebels in the Sudan People's Liberation Army

Iraqi leader vows to fight U.S. again

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan has said that Arabs would again fight the United States and its regional allies, especially Saudi Arabia.

He also accused other Arab and Islamic countries of unjustly supporting the economic blockade of Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The mother of all battles is not the last of Arab fights against the United States and its allies, slaves and agents in the region," the senior leader said in a speech to a congress of Arab journalists, the Iraqi news agency reported.

Mr. Ramadan said the United States would not have been able to attack with such ferocity "had not the traitor rulers of Saudi Arabia made the donations, and put the sacred lands of the Arabs at America's disposal to strike at Iraq, from land, sea and air."

The U.S.-led coalition forces were headquartered in Saudi Arabia, which donated \$13.5 billion to the cause and paid infrastructure and support costs for an estimated total of up to \$70 billion.

Mr. Ramadan said that Saudi Arabia paid the United States \$160 billion "for hitting Iraq."

Mr. Ramadan said it was the Arabs, and not the United States, who were really behind the economic blockade. He said the states in the region should vote to withdraw U.N. Security Council Resolution 667 which established the blockade because Iraq was no longer occupying Kuwait.

He said the last had not been heard from Iraq and its friends. "America and its allies in the region will be surprised by the uprising that will be staged by the Arab masses against all the traitors and agents who betrayed Arab honour," he said.

INA, monitored in Cyprus, said the participants in the congress held a march through downtown Baghdad.

An Iraqi newspaper said Israeli reconnaissance flights over Iraq were part of U.S.-led aggression.

An editorial in the Babylon daily said "what happened depended upon continued aggression led by the USA against Iraq."

"It (aggression) takes many forms, direct attacks, economic sanctions, sending inspection teams, some of whose members are chosen carefully by the CIA," it said.

This was a reference to David Kay, head of a U.N. nuclear inspection team held in a Baghdad car park for four days after refusing to surrender nuclear secrets it had seized.

The newspaper recalled that Israeli planes bombed Iraq's Tammuz nuclear reactor 10 years ago, and "the USA refused to punish Zionist aggression."

"It has refused until now to put the Zionist nuclear institutions and all biological and chemical weapons under international inspection."

"It has only showed its regret for this act (the overflights)," the editorial said, in reference to Washington's protest to Israel over the flights by Israeli F-15 warplanes across Iraqi territory last week.

The newspaper accused Turkey of using napalm in air attacks against Kurds in northern Iraq.

Turkey said Friday it had attacked Turkish Kurd guerrillas in Iraq in retaliation for Monday's killing by separatist rebels of 11 Turkish soldiers in the border region.

"The Israeli and Turkish aggression is part of the wide American plot against Iraq," Babel's editorial said.

Israeli cabinet minister 'will quit when peace talks start'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister said Saturday he would quit the government the moment Middle East peace talks began.

Energy Minister Yuval Neeman, who heads the small right-wing Tehiya Party, was asked by Israel's army radio how he could remain a member of the government if the talks involved indirect negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"That's why I will leave it (the government) the moment negotiations begin," he told army radio.

Mr. Neeman was one of three ministers who opposed Israel's conditional agreement to attend a peace conference, proposed and co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

He said he was hoping for a miracle that would derail the talks — "It's hard to predict what will be. Miracles can always happen."

Washington hopes to convene the conference by the end of this month.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, returning to the Middle East this weekend on his eighth peace mission, met a Palestinian

Vote to repeal resolution on Zionism faces delay

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Three weeks after President George Bush urged the repudiation of a 15-year-old U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, it seems possible the issue will be deferred until after a Middle East peace conference.

There is much diplomatic activity behind closed doors, but so far no public push to repeal the best-known U.N. resolution.

Egypt and other Arab states plan to fight introduction of the divisive issue, saying it would spoil the atmosphere before the expected peace conference this fall.

Some Muslim, Arab and Third World nations say it should not be repealed until there is a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement — and that could take years.

Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton pledged to Jewish leaders last week that the United States will work for repeal of the 1975 resolution by the end of the year.

Support for repeal has swelled in the 166-nation General Assembly. Most nations which supported the original resolution, including the Soviet Union, former communist bloc nations and key Latin countries, now say they would vote against it.

The Soviet foreign minister denounced it as "obnoxious." Poland and Brazil, which had supported it, now have agreed to co-sponsor repeal, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

But a two-thirds vote, sometimes sought for important issues, might be required, making the needed total at least 112.

U.S. and Israeli delegations have begun coordinating tactics and drafting resolutions repudiating Resolution 3379 of Nov. 10, 1975, which calls Zionism a form of racism which dehumanized Palestinians.

The resolution was adopted 72-35, with 32 abstentions in what was then a 142-nation assembly. General Assembly resolutions do not have the binding force of Security Council measures.

For years Israel and the United States have called the resolution a blot upon U.N. credibility. Israel says it makes the United Nations

Kuwait to sign defence pact with Britain, France

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's defence minister was quoted Saturday as saying the emirate will sign a defence pact with Britain within two months and a similar one with France later.

"We will sign the agreement with Britain within two months... the pact with France will be signed after that," Sheikh Ali Salem Al Sabah Al Sabah told Al Watan newspaper.

France said last week it had agreed in principle to a defence accord with Kuwait under which French forces would store weapons and use military bases in the emirate.

Kuwait has signed a similar 10-year pact with Washington. The three Western countries formed the bulk of the allied forces that in February ended Iraq's seven month occupation of Kuwait.

Western diplomats said the pacts with France and Britain will be along the same lines as the one signed with Washington.

The pact with the United States will give U.S. forces access to Kuwaiti ports, convoys, U.S. forces training and conducting military exercises with Kuwaiti forces and will allow U.S. military equipment to be stored in Kuwait.

Kuwait's defence policy of relying on the West has drawn criticism from neighbouring Iran, which opposes the Western military presence in the Gulf and wants regional states to instead rely on their own resources.

Sheikh Ali implied that the agreement would not allow for the establishment of permanent British bases in the emirate.

Sheikh Ali did not mention whether the pact would be limited to a specific period, but he said he was planning a visit to Britain.

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, discussed the two agreements during visits to Britain and France earlier this month.

Earlier this month, General Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces in the Gulf war, discussed details of the proposal with Kuwaiti officials during a trip to the emirate.

Kuwait is still struggling to rebuild its 16,000-man army which crumbled after Iraq's invasion. Western diplomatic sources say it would take at least five years to put it into reasonable shape.

Oil fires out by December

Kuwait expects to cap all its oil wells set alight or damaged in the Gulf war by December at the latest. Oil Minister Hamoud Abdulah Al Ragba was quoted Saturday as saying.

"We expect all the wells to be capped in December and the date might be even before that," he told local newspapers.

Kuwait had earlier said that the 732 wells would be capped by March.

Firefighting efforts recently picked up speed after Kuwait hired more international teams to tackle the blazes.

Mr. Ragba said only 118 wells — mostly in the northern fields — still had to be capped.

He said Kuwait was currently producing 270,000 barrels per day of crude and was expected to produce 400,000 bpd by the end of the year and 800,000 bpd by next July.

"Around 10 per cent of the wells will be closed completely. About 70 per cent need minor repairs and the rest will have to be studied before deciding what to do."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Jewish team meets with Chinese officials

PEKING (AP) — A delegation from the World Jewish Congress (WJC) met Friday with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qisheng and the head of China's legislature, the Jewish organisation said. In a statement distributed to news agencies in Peking, Mr. Leibler, co-chairman of the WJC, said he was "extremely encouraged" by the meetings with Mr. Qian and Wan Li. Mr. Wan is chairman of China's National People's Congress. Mr. Leibler said Mr. Qian and Mr. Wan showed "sincere interest in improving relations between our two ancient peoples."

The statement also said that during its five-day China visit, the Jewish delegation and the Chinese International Cultural Exchange Centre agreed to jointly sponsor a conference of Jewish and Chinese academics in Peking next April. China has good relations with most Arab states and recognises the state of Palestine. But China has been increasing its semi-official contacts with Israel, raising speculation that the two countries may be moving toward establishing diplomatic relations. On Thursday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said two visiting Israeli foreign ministry officials had discussed the Middle East peace process with Chinese officials. It was the first time that Israeli officials announced meetings were held between foreign ministry officials from the two countries. The Israeli officials conclude their trip to Peking on Sunday. Semi-official contacts between China and the Jewish state began in the mid-1980s.

Court allows Moroccan to stay in France

PARIS (R) — France's highest court rejected a government appeal Friday against a court ruling that Moroccan dissident author Abdel Moumen Diori should not have been expelled. Mr. Diori, a resident of France for 17 years, was sent to Gabon on June 20 as he was about to publish a book, "Who Owns Morocco?", detailing the personal fortune of Morocco's King Hassan II. A court overruled the expulsion order, which sparked bitter protests from human rights groups, in July and he was able to return to France. The government justified Mr. Diori's expulsion on the grounds that he had maintained contacts with Iraq and Libya, breaching a rule binding refugees to refrain from political activity. France's ties with Morocco were strained last year when French author Gilles Perrault published a book accusing King Hassan of violating human rights.

Mahfouz goes abroad for first time

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988, left Egypt for the first time on Saturday for medical treatment in London. Mr. Mahfouz, 79, said he was grateful for the attention he had received from the public and had put off his first trip abroad for a week to meet friends and Egyptian literary figures. "I have every faith I will be meeting my readers again," Mr. Mahfouz, bound for London for surgery on his stomach, said in a statement at the airport. When he won the Nobel Prize, Mr. Mahfouz sent his two daughters to Sweden to collect it on his behalf.

Group says it killed Istanbul policemen

ISTANBUL (R) — A far-left urban guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for the deaths of five policemen in two separate ambushes in Istanbul this week, the Anatolian news agency said Saturday. A woman representing the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) group made the claim in calls to newspapers, the agency said. Two policemen were killed and another was wounded while on patrol early on Friday and three policemen were shot dead on Thursday night. Two gunmen were killed in an ensuing clash. President Turgut Ozal Friday condemned the killings which he said were aimed at creating chaos ahead of next Sunday's parliamentary elections. Twenty policemen have been shot dead and 14 have been wounded in ambushes this year in Istanbul. The Istanbul mass-circulation daily Hurriyet said on Saturday the killings raised fears that there were informers within the Istanbul security services as all five of the latest victims were plainclothes policemen. "We suspect there are informers helping the group (Dev-Sol) inside the Istanbul security," one security official told Hurriyet, asking not to be named. As the election nears, Istanbul security sources expect a surge in attacks by Dev-Sol which they suspect has about 150 gunmen working in a cell structure. The group, which emerged in the late 1970s, was suppressed after a 1980 army coup but revived after several of its leaders escaped from jail in 1987.

S. African sets fire to liquor store in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A devout South African Muslim set fire to a liquor store in Cairo Saturday and stood watching the flames until police arrived. Police said Moustafa Jassine Mohammed Nouruddin, a 19-year-old student, used petrol to set alight the shop in Cairo's chic district of Zamalek. Police said the woman, wearing the traditional Muslim hijab dress, recited religious texts as they marched behind her to the police station. The fire spread to a furniture shop next door but the extent of damage was not immediately known. No one was hurt.

Qadhafi leaves Egypt after two-day visit

CAIRO (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi left Egypt for Libya Saturday after a two-day visit in which he discussed the Middle East peace process with President Hosni Mubarak and attended the wedding of Mr. Mubarak's son Alaa. His visit was the latest in a series of contacts between the two neighbours, who removed border controls in August.

Turks told they can have more wives

ISTANBUL (R) — A candidate in Turkey's general election is promising that men will be allowed to marry more than one woman if they vote him into parliament. "We'll put an end to monogamy and change the law to legalise polygamy," Welfare Party candidate Ibrahim Halil Celik told reporters during his campaign for the Oct. 20 poll. It is illegal to have more than one wife in Turkey, but Mr. Celik favours the reintroduction of the Muslim practice of polygamy. Surveys in the under-developed east show one out of every 10 men have more than one wife and some have as many as four.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Badabois
17:35 (Suisse) Duf
18:00 L'ecole des fast
18:15 News in French
18:30 Carre de notes
18:45 News in Hebrew
19:00 News in Arabic
19:15 Golden Girls
19:30 Murder She Wrote
19:45 News in English
20:00 The Ordeal House

PRAYER TIMES

06:17 Fajr
06:34 (Suisse) Duf
11:22 Dhuhr
14:57 'Asr
17:10 Maghreb
18:27 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatich Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 62285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624250

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 621440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assess International Church Tel. 653326
Protestant Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions. The rain will be partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain are expected. Winds will be southeasterly moderate, freshening at times. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas choppy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>Amman Min./Max. temp. 16/27 Amman 16/27 Amman 22/30 Jordan Valley 17/33</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Amman 30. Humidity readings: Amman 63 per cent, Amman 42 per cent.</p> <h4>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</h4> <h4>NIGHT DUTY</h4> <p>AMMAN: Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364 Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 690488 Dr. Arif Al Azzam 698989 Dr. Mohamed Shawish 698876 First pharmacy 691912 Ferdous pharmacy 78374 Al Asama pharmacy 257053 Nouroukh pharmacy 634672 Al Salem pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 691912 Shamoun pharmacy 691912</p> <p>REBEL: Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker (-)</p>	<p>Al Shiraa's pharmacy 273825 ZARQA: Dr. Maymoun Hanna (-) Khalifeh pharmacy 985417</p> <h4>EMERGENCIES</h4> <p>Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate 637111 Fire Brigade 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 856390 Police Security Department 693331 Hotel Complaints 628000 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 897467 Complaints 787111 Telephone Information 121 Directory assistance 010230 Overseas Calls 623101 Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101</p>	<p>Abdul Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636361 RJ Flight Information 06-32200 Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-32200</p> <h4>HOSPITALS</h4> <p>AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816 Abdoh Maternity, J. Amn 642816 Jabal Amman Maternity 642816 Malina, J. Amman 635140 Palestine, Shamsat 664171/4 Shamsat, Shamsat 669131 University Hospital 843845 Al-Hussein Hospital 667277/9 The Islamic Hospital 669177/9 Al-Ame, Abdoh 664164/6 Hussein, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6 Amay, Marja 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital 662405/6 Amal Hospital 674153 ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital 09783323</p>	<p>Zarga National Hospital 09780560 The Sina Hospital 09786732 Al-Hussein Modern Hospital 09785990</p> <p>REBEL: Princess Sumra Hospital 02272555 Greek Catholic Hospital 02272225 The Al-Hussein Hospital 02274700 Aqaba: Princess Haya Hospital 03514113</p> <h4>FOR THE TRAVELLER</h4> <h4>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</h4> <p>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. 0632200-5, where it should always be verified.</p> <h4>ARRIVALS</h4> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>From</th> <th>Flight</th> </tr> <tr> <td>06:15</td> <td>Beirut (RJ)</td> <td>661</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06:30</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>662</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06:45</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>663</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07:00</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>664</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07:15</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>665</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07:30</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>666</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07:45</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>667</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08:00</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>668</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08:15</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>669</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08:30</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>670</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08:45</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>671</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:00</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>672</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:15</td> <td>Amman (RJ)</td> <td>673</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:30</td> <td>Amman 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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

AAU to hold meetings in Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian universities and those of the occupied Arab territories are to take part in the annual meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), which is due to open in Doha, Qatar, on Oct. 26. According to Dr. Awad Khleifat, who will head the Muta University delegation to the meetings, the annual party will discuss a report by the AAU secretary general on the association's activities in the past six years and the participants will elect a new AAU secretary general for the coming four years.

Ministry workshop begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education Saturday opened a workshop on cultural, social and technical education adopted at community colleges in Jordan. Participants will discuss new plans for these colleges in the current 1991-92 academic year.

Traveller completes 2nd stage of trip

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian round-the-world traveller, Ali Etoum, has finished the second stage of his travel and returned to Amman. Mr. Etoum, who is making the round the world trip on his bicycle, visited Syria, Turkey and Bulgaria during which he distributed pamphlets and photographs depicting historical, archaeological, cultural and economic sites in Jordan. Mr. Etoum said his trip aims at promoting Jordan's ties of friendship with the countries of the world.

Fund distributes JD 4,276,395

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) distributed JD 4,276,395 to 16,986 families in the first nine months of 1991. The fund's director, Farouk Badran, said a total of 628 needy families received NAF lump sum grants and loans to start businesses to earn a living during the same period.

Spanish official due in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez is due here Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan. The minister, who is on a regional tour that will also take him to Syria and Iran, is expected to discuss matters of Spanish-Jordanian concern with local officials. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that matters related to the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East and the current initiatives for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict will be reviewed. The question of bilateral ties, the agency said, is also on the agenda.

Health Department launching new programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Department in the northern Jordan Valley District is currently launching several programmes aimed at spreading health awareness among citizens, according to department Director Mustafa Salameh. He said the week-long programme, which is organised by the department on the occasion of the Arab Child Day, includes lectures at schools, charity societies and kindergartens on the importance of balanced nutrition and the hygienic environment needed for the children's safety. A similar programme has also started in the Madaba District.

Jordan to attend FAO meeting

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Middle East political, economic and social committee which will start in Damascus Oct. 13. The meetings will discuss three working papers dealing with providing services to farmers, analysing the quality of food products and estimating losses in strategic crops.

Courses to be held for preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Issam Al Khateeb and Ali Al Khateeb met heads of ministry departments Saturday and emphasised the need for them to speed up work on various procedures related to public services. The minister told the meeting that plans have been drawn up to hold training courses for mosque preachers to raise their efficiency and performance.

Official hold talks with association

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim met Saturday with the board of directors of the Association of Bakeries Owners and a number of proprietors of flour mills in Jordan. They discussed questions related to the grinding of wheat and the distribution of flour to various bakeries in the Irbid region. Mr. Ibrahim said that the ministry will pursue the process of testing samples of flour from all mills to ensure that they comply with the required standards and specifications.

Jordanian delegation leaves for IMF talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation comprising Finance Minister Basel Jaradat and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi left Amman for Bangkok Friday to take part in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was due to open Saturday evening. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the Jordanian delegation to the meetings will hold bilateral talks with IMF officials on relations between Jordan and the IMF.

Accord signed on fertiliser plant

(Continued from page 1)

were under way to single out the most feasible and cheap means to raise \$75 million in loans for the phosphoric acid project. Among the options under consideration is channelling proceeds from a possible increase in Indian imports of Jordanian rock phosphates and loans from international agencies and banking institutions, including the Islamic Bank.

The JPMC is also involved in discussions with a Japanese consortium to set up a compound fertiliser plant in Jordan. The project is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

U.N. imposes stringent curbs

(Continued from page 1)

nuclear industry be totally dismantled. Under the resolution, Iraq will only be allowed to use harmless isotopes for medical, industrial and geological survey purposes. The new monitoring programme is indefinite and gives U.N. inspectors the authority to roam anywhere in Iraq, by land or air, to remove or photograph any item or document, take any sample, interview any personnel and install any necessary surveillance equipment.

U.N. teams also have the right to stop and inspect vehicles, ships and planes, and to check on Iraqi imports or exports. Iraq is required to cooperate fully, allowing U.N. teams unimpeded access, complying with all their requests and enacting legislation to prevent its own citizens from carrying out any activities barred under the resolution. Baghdad must also provide reports on nuclear, chemical, biological and missile-related materials, sites and activities.



AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Amman Saturday for Morocco on a several day visit during which he will meet with King Hassan II and a number of senior Moroccan officials. The Crown Prince will take part in the second meeting by the Moroccan Academy for this year and will deliver an address at the opening session. Prince Hassan was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Mohammad, Abdallah and Faisal as well as other members of the Royal family. Also at the airport was Prime Minister Taher Masi and other officials and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Jordan.

Islamic conference countries agree to offer aid to Palestinians, Lebanese

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic

countries' meeting which ended in Istanbul last Wednesday has come out strongly in favour of providing continued support for the Palestinian people under occupation rule and to provide aid to Lebanon to help its reconstruction programme, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour.

Delegates to the seventh standing committee on economic and trade cooperation among Islamic countries expressed their determination to pursue efforts to extend backing and assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, the minister said.

He said that support and help are needed to enhance the Palestinians' steadfastness and to enable them to pursue the struggle to fulfil their national aspirations.

The minister, who returned from the meeting after heading Jordan's delegation, said that the conference emphasised the need to provide immediate aid to the Palestinians in the fields of housing and construction in the face of the Jewish immigration settlement programmes in Palestine. He said that the Islamic countries expressed readiness to provide assistance towards the restoration of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, particularly the restoration of the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Referring to the question of Lebanon, Mr. Surour said that the Islamic conference decided to extend economic technical and financial aid to Lebanon and to offer Lebanese products preferential treatment and facilities to be marketed in Islamic countries. Such moves, the minister said, were designed to enable the

Lebanese to rebuild their country's economic institutions.

The Islamic conference decided that further aid will be granted from the Islamic World to enable Lebanon to restore electricity, and irrigation networks as well as health services and to refurnish farming and transport systems.

According to Mr. Surour, the conference decided to offer Lebanese students seats to study in any of the universities found in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) states.

Mr. Surour added that the conference voiced support for studies related to deal with the impact of the creation of united Europe in the coming year on the Muslim World. He said, the conference called for close cooperation among Islamic financial institutions within the OIC framework.

Minister: Courses designed to reinforce students' pride in Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry

of Education has put into practice new regulations concerning the teaching of military education and civics in government schools, offering courses in these streams to male and female students of the first secondary class.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat made a tour of the various schools within the greater Amman region, which started the courses for the first time in the past week.

Ministry of Education sources said that students who began taking these new courses as of Thursday number 34,546 with many of them in schools found within the Amman Governorate.

The programme is designed to create balanced personalities among the students of Jordanian schools, providing them with an ample background about the country, its history, leadership and policies, the minister had said earlier this month upon announcing the new measures.

Ministry of Education officials said that the students will be given lessons in Jordan's geography, history — with special focus on Jordan's relations with Palestine and its endeavours to confront aggression and Israeli



Eid Dahiyat

threats — and military training during a nine week period. The lessons, they said, would be given on Thursdays.

The officials said that the courses are now being given to male students but the same courses will be given to female students in the second term of the current scholastic year.

Minister Dahiyat was accompanied on his tour by commander of the People's Army and directors of education.

The courses are being carried out in cooperation with the People's Army, the Civil Defence and the Public Security department's as well as the University of Jordan.

Problems in training students in refrigeration and air conditioning processes reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — A training

seminar on air conditioning and refrigerating systems opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of delegates from eight Arab countries.

Organised by the Baghdad based Arab Federation for Technical Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, the training seminar will focus attention on equipment used in refrigeration and air conditioning processes, their operation and maintenance and practical training on them as well as visits to a number of Jordanian institutions.

The participants, all instructors in technical centres and institutes operated by community colleges in Arab states, will be oriented on modern skills and will be provided with information and data in promoting their performance in imparting technical training.

Federation Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Bashir outlined the federation's activities in promoting technical and vocational training but pointed out that such training is facing several constraints in the Arab World.

Several lectures will be delivered during the two week seminar, which is being attended by delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq and Qatar.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamoun, Khalid Jirees and Mohammad Hussein Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Ismail Khayyat, Mohammad Abdallah, Khater Mohammad, Ali Mandakawi, Khalid Wahl and Elmat Ali at Baladna Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safeway).

Official calls for stricter monitoring of water supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — While water

pumped for domestic consumption is safe thanks to continued monitoring by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the country's water resources face five main sources of pollution, according to a ministry official.

Dr. Raja Jadoun, director of the ministry's Laboratories and Water Control Department, said that water pumped to homes is 96 per cent safe, a rate considered excellent and one that meets the standards of the most advanced nations.

Department teams and technicians maintain continuous monitoring of water resources in Jordan and carry out examination and inspection of water networks and main water towers to ensure safe drinking water for the public, Dr. Jadoun said.

At the same time, the department maintains monitoring over

the pollutants, their sources and effects on the country's water resources, Dr. Jadoun added.

He said that five sources of pollution endanger the water resources in Jordan and these are: activities of the industrial sector, the presence of cesspools, techniques used in the treatment of waste water at various plants, dumping areas where the solid refuse from industries and homes is dumped as well as the extensive use of fertilisers in irrigated farmlands where a high degree of salinity exists in the soil.

Referring to the activities of the industrial sector, Dr. Jadoun said that industries are not concentrated in one area in Amman and Zarqa, along the water basin, something that is having negative effects on water because of continued dumping of waste into the river and the storage of chemical

materials in unorthodox manners in the soil.

Dr. Jadoun said that cesspools within residential areas are also a source of danger to water resources because waste water seeping into the ground contaminates the aquifers.

The use of pesticides will increase salinity in the soil and improper means of disposing of solid waste from homes and industries is also harmful as these materials will pollute the underground water.

Dr. Jadoun said problems like these should be dealt with at the national level and would need constant control and monitoring of underground and other water resources. They could also be addressed through the revision of methods used in the treatment of waste water and in the use of pesticides in farming.

Cooperation, agreement on exchanges of information highlighted in fertiliser seminar

By Nur Sed

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Advances in the international fertiliser industry and how producers and consumers with special relations can work together to take advantage of technological progress and each other's experience in the field were the focus of a five-day seminar held in Amman last week.

The seminar, the third of its kind to be organised in which Jordan played a prominent role, offered an opportunity for Jordanian and Indian experts in the fertiliser industry to exchange expertise and give each other the benefit of experience in the various aspects of mining, production and processing as well as the commercial elements of the trade.

Indian and Jordanian experts representing their respective country's fertiliser industry took part in the deliberations and in reviewing 15 working papers dealing with fertiliser production.

The Jordanian fertiliser industry was represented mostly by officials from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC).

The Indian market imports more than 20 per cent of Jordan's total phosphate production. India is a major producer of fertilisers using indigenous

and international raw materials.

The discussions involved exchanging the latest fertiliser production technology, presenting the problems the parties face and sharing each other's experiences in solving these problems.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, JPMC Managing Director Wasef Azar said that the meeting, which is held every two years, was aimed at bolstering cooperation between the two sides.

Mr. Azar, also chairman of the Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee, added that the Indian experts acquainted themselves with the types and nature of Jordanian raw materials used in the local fertiliser industry.

"The importance of this conference can be seen from the scientific and technical aspect," said Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply.

Exchanging expertise will give a better opportunity for the fertiliser industry "to catch up with the state of art and follow the latest development in this important industry," Mr. Badran told the Jordan Times.

This cooperation is not only restricted to simple trade of

commodities of imports or exports "but it goes far beyond to cooperate and develop industries and in having direct contact between experts in Jordan, India and other countries," Mr. Badran said.

In his opening speech to the conference, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb said that the fertiliser industry has a lot to offer under the new world system following the recent developments and changes in international relations. Such changes, he added, will have a greater impact in developing countries.

Agriculture should have the priority in such plans, aiming at becoming more independent in food supplies, he said. "The fertiliser industry will be an important tool in achieving these objectives," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

He added that Jordan and India have had close relations over the past few years. Jordan, which possesses phosphate rock and potash — the main ingredients of fertilisers — in addition to its strategic location, made it an obvious choice for India to secure a large portion of its requirements from Jordan, he said.

On the other hand, he said, many Indian companies of various sectors are helping Jordan's programmes.

Announcement from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Water Authority of Jordan invitation for bids

Date: 12/10/1991

Loan No.: 3306 JO

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank and 4 grants from Canada, Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland in various currencies towards the cost of the Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of goods listed in the table below under ERP.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of items listed in the table below.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of the tenders Division of the Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 24439 JO. Fax 679143.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and against the payment of a non-refundable fee specified in the table below.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount listed in the table below, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours Jordan local time, as detailed in the table below.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 hours on dates specified in the table below at the Head Office of Water Authority at the above address.

Item No.	Contract No./Code	Description	Bid Bond Amount JD	Cost of Each Set of bid Documents JD	Opening Date
1.	26/91/AW	Air Compressors and welding machines	5,000	50	23/11/1991
2.	27/91/BIT	Drilling and hammer bits	11,000	100	23/11/1991
3.	28/91/CAB	Cables	9,000	100	23/11/1991
4.	29/91/CAS	Casing & Screen	12,500	100	23/11/1991
5.	30/91/CEM	Drilling chemicals and additives	3,500	50	23/11/1991
6.	31/91/FTT	Black steel fittings and galvanized steel fittings	7,500	100	26/11/1991
7.	32/91/HVE	Wheeled backhoes	14,000	125	26/11/1991
8.	33/91/GOL	Galvanized steel pipes	30,000	150	26/11/1991
9.	34/91/HP	Horizontal pumps	18,000	125	26/11/1991
10.	35/91/JET	Jet guileys	27,500	150	26/11/1991
11.	36/91/LAB	Laboratory equipment	6,500	100	26/11/1991
12.	37/91/RP	Riser pipes	16,500	125	30/11/1991
13.	38/91/SP	Submersible pumps	5,000	100	30/11/1991
14.	39/91/STP	Black steel pipes	111,000	275	30/11/1991
15.	40/91/STR	Auto transformer	8,000	100	30/11/1991
16.	41/91/VAL	Valves	7,250	100	03/12/1991
17.	42/91/WMT	Water meters	75,000	200	03/12/1991
18.	43/91/TOL	Plumbing tools	5,500	50	03/12/1991
19.	44/91/ISM	Source water meters	6,000	100	03/12/1991
20.	45/91/CL	Chlorinators	18,000	125	03/12/1991

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Adjustment with social safety nets

THE letter of intent which is about to be issued by the Jordanian government to implement an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is still confidential. However, it seems that the economic adjustment programme which was agreed upon in principle will mean radical measures to fully liberalise the Jordanian economy aiming at reducing the imbalances in the central government budget and balance of payments.

The writer was always a firm supporter of economic liberalisation and adjustment at a proper time and in a gradual manner. Yet he cannot but express his worries in case measures will be implemented hastily, before taking the necessary precautions to safeguard against the negative side-effects which must occur when long-time practices are altered abruptly, and before public support to the programme is gained.

What I have in mind is the reported formula of immediate cancellation of food subsidies against raising the salaries in the public sector as of the beginning of 1992. We have always warned against the indulgence in the policy of subsidies because once you start offering a subsidy it becomes extremely difficult and

sometimes dangerous to withdraw. The withdrawal is unavoidable now or in the future.

The formula calling for removal of subsidies against increasing of salaries, if true, is not an ideal solution. It is fully recognised that the public sector salaries are low. Their purchasing power has deteriorated substantially because of inflation and higher cost of living. However, we know that at least 50,000 applicants are lined up for a governmental job at the Civil Service Bureau. The applicants are willing and eager to take governmental jobs with low salaries because the alternative is no job and no income at all. Therefore, it fair, under the circumstances to allocate the little money we have to improve the lot of those who were lucky enough to get the jobs, or should priority be given to those who remained jobless? In other words, should we help first those with low income or those with no income?

On the other hand, we find that almost half the Jordanian families draw their income, or part of it, in the form of public sector salaries. Those families are able, in theory, to use the increments in the salaries to pay for the increase in prices of

subsidised food. But what about the others, especially those who live in the countryside, in the eastern desert or in the refugee camps?

Increasing salaries is a socially desired objective, but not when the deficit in the budget is in excess of JD 350 million, being covered by foreign loans and donations which are not guaranteed to continue flowing in the future. Also, the removal of subsidies is right and necessary but not in one strike and indiscriminately.

In times of deep changes safety nets become badly needed in order to protect the weak groups of the population, at least for a transitional period, so that those who fall don't get their bones broken. Thus, food subsidies for poor families should continue, at least for some time.

Reportedly, around 25 per cent of the Jordanian families are below the poverty line. Therefore, the Jordanian society and government are under obligation to extend a safety net for the poor families as a social and political necessity which should be understood and appreciated even by the stone-hearted experts of the IMF.

King shows the way

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the nation yesterday was a bold, courageous message from a leader to his people at a crucial juncture of their history. It was a cry of conscience on behalf of peace — the dream that has eluded generations of Arabs — and a great statesman's plea for realism, reasonableness and progress. By announcing Jordan's acceptance of the peace conference's proposal, the King was not making an arbitrary decision to run any peace formula down the throat of Jordanians or Palestinians. Rather, the option of peace for us, in the Monarch's words, is like a quest for a sober policy democratically determined on the foundation of rational national debate and balanced perspective.

Peace, as His Majesty said yesterday, would be a watershed between uncertainty and clarity, between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality. In this sense, the quest for peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would be a turning point not only for the Middle East region but also for the entire world.

For all those among us here and elsewhere in the region who harbour negativism and would rather profess pessimism and paralysing doubts, His Majesty's assuring words that Jordan and the rest of the Arab parties seeking a permanent and equitable peace and security do not stand alone against Israeli intransigence and last-ditch efforts to torpedo the painstakingly nurtured peace process must come as a reminder that peace will not be determined on the basis of strategic balance alone.

The entire international community is on the side of legitimacy and the recent pronouncements by the U.S. president on the foundations of peace in the area have given a vivid expression to this. This crescendo of international support for just peace in the Middle East would bear fruition, as the King indicated, just like it did in forcing a complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in spite of all earlier Israeli protestations to the contrary. There is therefore no reason to ignore the possible repetition of the Sinai success story when negotiations over the West Bank, Gaza and Golan Heights are undertaken in earnest.

The pivotal role for Jordan in the impending peace talks is determined by obvious geopolitical considerations as well as demographic links between Jordanians and Palestinians that have been intertwined for decades on end, the King said. Besides, Jordan has a stake in a regional peace and security. Without the resolution of the Palestinian case, the case for Jordan's well being and even continuity would hang in the balance. So Jordan's involvement in the peace process is not a luxury but rather a necessity determined by considerations that touch upon sheer survival and development.

Thus the people of Jordan are invited to reflect wisely and rationally on the King's efforts for regional peace and security and to decide accordingly. And they will. In the meanwhile the case for holding the peace conference is strong and persuasive. Jordan and the rest of the countries and peoples of the region are indeed at a crossroads. Waging peace calls for even greater courage than making war. Let us opt for the known rather than for the unknown.

Baker still faces mammoth task in Mideast peace talks

By Walter Putnam
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — If U.S. Secretary of State James Baker succeeds in the herculean task of finalising a Middle East peace conference, his work as peace-maker will have only just begun.

Both sides in the 43-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict — poles apart just over the proposal for talks — are sceptical that the conference will yield a lasting solution.

"To hold the peace conference is one thing. To reach peace is something else," said Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar, a former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee.

But Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East Affairs, is more optimistic.

He said during a visit to Damascus Friday: "Nothing will come from the talks unless everyone goes in with the right approach — and that is that something will come from the talks because that's better than what they have today."

Mr. Baker is expected in Damascus Tuesday and will visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan on his eight shuttle since the Gulf war to try to eliminate remaining obstacles for the parley expected to be held at the end of October.

Diplomatic sources said matters to be decided include where the conference will be convened, whether further talks would be held at the same place — if the process goes that far — and even the wording of invitations.

Mr. Murphy said Mr. Baker's main mission is "to persuade the two parties who are the only ones who have not made a commitment to attend the talks — the Palestinians and the Israelis."

"But I can't imagine that the Palestinians are going to miss the boat, or that the Israelis, after 40 years of seeking these types of negotiations, are going to give up the chance of peace."

He said a major stumbling block is who will represent the world's five million Palestinians.

The PLO have had little choice



but to back down from its insistence of fielding its own delegation and agree to a joint delegation with Jordan.

But just who will be in the Palestinian component has not been determined. The Israelis insist that only Palestinians from the occupied zones are accept-

able. The PLO wants to be represented.

The front-line Arab states, including Lebanon, appear ready to attend despite protests against what they view as provocative Israeli actions, such as building new settlements in territories

occupied in 1967 and carrying out reconnaissance flights over Arab states.

Syrian President Hafez Assad's surprise agreement in July to go along with the U.S. initiative, reversing years of stonewalling, was a feather in Mr. Baker's cap.

But there are questions about what President Assad has in mind — whether Israel's most implacable enemy genuinely wants to talk peace or whether he only sought to embarrass the Israelis by backing the U.S. initiative.

Several diplomats in Damascus suspect Syria expects the talks to

founder and that Israel will be blamed.

Abu Maizar said Mr. Baker "must be practical in his assurances to the Arabs." On past missions, he said, Mr. Baker has not been clear on how far Washington would go to back up its stated intentions.

President George Bush's delay in giving Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees to resettle Soviet Jews has gone some way in reassuring the Arabs that the United States is prepared to play hardball with the Jewish state.

But the Israelis are incensed and see that as pressure on them to go to the negotiating table. Arab leaders claim Israel throws up new obstacles to the talks as fast as other hurdles are eliminated.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that conference invitations would not be sent unless Israel approves the wording. If it doesn't like it, Israel would not attend.

The Bush administration has assured the Israelis they will not have to negotiate with anyone they consider unacceptable — such as the PLO — and that Washington does not support the creation of a Palestinian state.

But the Americans insist that Israel has to relinquish the Arab territories captured in 1967.

The Palestinians have made clear that the bottom line for them is an independent homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Arabs also demand the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and an Israeli withdrawal from the so-called "security zone" they have held in South Lebanon since 1985.

The Holy City of Jerusalem is another roadblock.

The Israelis say that the status of Jerusalem is not negotiable and warn that they will not attend the conference unless they receive a U.S. pledge that a united Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital. The Israelis captured Arab East Jerusalem in 1967 and later annexed it.

But the Palestinians also want the city as the capital of the independent homeland they seek.

Bush nominees hit political buzz saw that could cut president

By Lawrence McQuillan
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Messy, high-profile challenges to his nominees to the Supreme Court and CIA, plus a stubbornly sluggish economy, are turning into a political buzz saw for President George Bush that may cut into his image as he readies for a reelection campaign.

White House officials are fearful that Mr. Bush, whose high popularity ratings have given him an aura of invincibility, could be harmed personally if the nominees go down to defeat — raising questions about his judgment.

As recently as last Saturday, Clarence Thomas appeared to be assured of confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. And Robert Gates, after clearing the initial hurdle of what he knew about the Iran-contra affair, also seemed on track to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Both now face tough battles, with Mr. Thomas accused of sexual harassment and Mr. Gates charged with slanting intelligence data while he was a top CIA official in the 1980s to match the preconceived political notions of the Reagan White House.

To each case, the charges have been laid out in a very public way, often carried to the nation via live television.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, asked if Mr. Bush was second-guessing himself on his selections, replied tersely:

"No. He has good nominations... they're outstanding candidates."

Mr. Fitzwater later complained that "it appears to us that the confirmation process has become a political process in many cases, too many cases."

"I think that's a serious matter, even the Congress is concerned about it," he said. "I don't believe they like the circus aspects of this any better than anybody else does."

The confirmation process pits the president, the nation's highest-elected Republican, against a Senate controlled by Democrats. The actions of both sides are cast against the backdrop of the November 1992 presidential election.

"It would defy the way that confirmation hearings generally in the last few years have been made into political campaigns," Mr. Fitzwater said on Wednesday, reflecting the administration's sensitivity to what has unfolded.

"I don't think that's helpful towards getting a better candidate or pursuing the facts of the case," he said.

If Mr. Bush's choices for key positions are found unfit by the Senate — and the general public comes to share that view it provides ammunition for challenging Mr. Bush's judgment.

Mr. Bush has been nagged with doubts about his ability to select the right individuals for important posts — beginning with his surprise choice in 1988 of Dan

Quayle to be his vice-presidential running mate.

Despite three years of administration efforts to establish Mr. Quayle's credentials, a solid majority of Americans still seriously doubt he could step in if Mr. Bush were incapacitated.

John Tower, the president's first choice to be his defence secretary, was rejected by the Senate — where he represented the state of Texas for much of his political career — amid questions about his womanising and drinking.

In addition, Mr. Bush's reappointment of Robert Clarke as comptroller of the currency is currently under fire in Congress for his alleged lax regulation of the nation's banks.

Mr. Clarke's is a relatively low-grade fight but rejection of either Mr. Thomas or Mr. Gates would likely dredge up new questions about Mr. Bush's ability to find the right person for the job.

Democrats, searching for Mr. Bush's vulnerabilities as the presidential nominating process for both parties begins next February, have been relying heavily on their congressional leaders to lash out until their own candidates — who now number five — can draw more attention.

"We cannot understand why President Bush is so eager and willing to help people in need overseas, but is so reluctant and unwilling to help Americans in need," Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell charged on Wednesday.

Man pegged as next prime minister a sharp contrast to Kaifu

By Michael Hirsh
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Kiichi Miyazawa, the smiling, savvy career statesman almost assured of becoming Japan's next prime minister, is a striking contrast to Toshiki Kaifu, the man he is to replace.

Unlike Kaifu, who was virtually unknown in Japan and had no international experience before becoming prime minister, the 72-year-old Miyazawa has garnered laurels from a career spent in international conferences and diplomatic missions.

Mr. Miyazawa attended the first economic summit of leading industrial nations in France in 1975 as Japan's foreign minister, and is given credit for helping to start the Trilateral Commission, an influential group of politicians from the advanced democracies.

As a graduate of the elite Tokyo University and a former Finance Ministry bureaucrat, his intellectual prowess and fluent English often have aroused the resentment of his fellow politicians, many of whom have humbler resumes.

According to Minoru Hirano, a political columnist for the Yomiuri newspaper, even former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita "is rumored to hold Miyazawa in the same sort of awe."

Indeed, some analysts blame Mr. Miyazawa's aloofness from the wheeling and dealing of party politics for keeping him from the

prime minister's chair before.

"I am the son of a congressman and the grandson of another. I know the backstage, the kitchen, of politics. I was determined not to enter it — but was drawn into it reluctantly," he said in a 1977 magazine interview.

He was drawn in too deeply in 1989, when he was forced to resign as finance minister as one of those tainted by the recruit influence-buying scandal.

Mr. Miyazawa has served in most key cabinet posts and enjoys a reputation as an expert policy-maker with a good grasp of economics.

Unlike the greener Kaifu, many of whose policy initiatives failed, he also benefits from numerous contacts in the bureaucracy, a requisite for any would-be mover and shaker in Japanese politics.

As finance minister in the late 1980s, Mr. Miyazawa favoured heavy public spending, tax cuts and lower interest rates.

In a proposal similar to one later adopted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, he also called for Japan to make greater efforts to help debtor nations, saying the nation should be more "philanthropic-minded."

An avid supporter of the nation's three "non-nuclear principles" — neither possessing, manufacturing nor introducing nuclear arms — Mr. Miyazawa has said Japan should take more

initiative in promoting global nuclear arms reduction.

Mr. Miyazawa was born in Fukuyama near Hiroshima on Oct. 8, 1919. A member of a wealthy family and one of the privileged few to pass the diplomatic service examination, he entered the Finance Ministry in 1942 and served there through World War II.

During the American occupation, when U.S. forces wielded tremendous influence in Japanese affairs, Mr. Miyazawa worked for Hayato Ikeda, then finance minister under the government of Shigeru Yoshida.

He acted as secretary and interpreter in Washington talks between Mr. Ikeda and John Dulles, the secretary of state under President Dwight Eisenhower, in talks that led to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the formation of Japan's self-defense forces.

Mr. Miyazawa later followed his mentor, Mr. Ikeda, into politics. And like Mr. Ikeda, who formed his own party faction and became prime minister in 1960, Mr. Miyazawa eventually came to head a faction, now the third largest.

Mr. Miyazawa's first cabinet post was director general of the Economic Planning Agency in 1962. He later served as minister of international trade and industry and foreign minister in the 1970s.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with representatives of the various public sectors and his address tackling domestic and external issues as an embodiment of democracy. The paper emphasised the need for national unity behind the King who, it said, has led his people towards the shore of safety and has always served as a symbol for the people's continued endeavours for progress. It is quite natural for people under a democracy that phenomenon can only be interpreted as a healthy sign for the country, the paper stressed. It said that despite the different views and attitudes of different factions and sectors, one can only hope that democracy and national unity will come out victorious. The paper said that the King is keen to address his people and to let them in on the facts so that they realise the challenges the country is facing and the responsibilities its citizens should shoulder under difficult circumstances. Democracy, based on political pluralism and public freedoms, the paper continued, can only enhance the national unity which is the best guarantee for confronting the challenges facing the Kingdom. Backed by the will and determination of the people, said the paper, the leadership of this country can find no obstacles in moving ahead with courage and national commitment towards the achievement and fulfilment of national aspirations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday expressed support for a move on the part of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) which has issued a warning to the association members to abide by a set of rates in charging patients for their services. This warning, as the association has noted, followed repeated complaints that a number of specialists are violating the regulations and charging much higher rates, said Nadia. The writer said the public expects the JMA to take a further step and announce the names of those doctors or specialists manipulating the situation so that patients would know and then have the chance to decide and choose the doctors they want. The repeated complaints against this group of doctors prompted the JMA to issue this warning and to interfere and put an end to a malpractice, the writer added. He said that members of the public have indeed been worried about the high rates for treatment and were wondering whether the JMA would take proper action that would force this group to abide by the association's rates issued last April. The writer said that no patient, regardless of his financial situation, would like to see himself victim of greed and exploitation.

King: Peace conference could usher in a new era of hope, relief and progress

Following is His Majesty King Hussein's full address to a Jordanian national congress on Saturday

Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress, fellow citizens,

I greet you warmly and through you all I greet my dear people. I address you and all Jordanian citizens irrespective of your roots and political affiliations. I address you as members of one family sharing the same destiny.

You are probably wondering why we are meeting in this manner at this particular time. Simply and honestly, it is my duty as a leader to engage you in a frank and open discussion to ascertain current realities and their ramifications, to predict possible consequences and to seek a consensus amongst us. This should unite us toward a common and meaningful objective, for what is at stake is the destiny of our country and the security and future of our nation.

Modern Jordan was founded to protect this land and its people. Throughout the years the region has witnessed certain developments which placed Jordan on the longest borders and in a sacred position, making it the avant-garde of its Arab nation. Recently, events have accelerated in a manner that have overtaken our national agenda which was based on formulating a National Charter, and which has been accomplished. The next phase was to translate the principles of this National Charter into reality and in the form of political pluralism and political parties, whose pan-Arab and universal outlook emanate from the Jordanian homeland and its message, functioning in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Charter. Pursuant to that, general parliamentary elections based on political pluralism were to be held.

Were it not for those events which took us by surprise, we would have carried out our national agenda as scheduled, and there would have been no need to hold this meeting to brief, through you, our people about an issue that will constitute, as I expect, a watershed between uncertainty and clarity of vision, and between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality by confronting challenges with courage, determination and faith.

Thus, I believe it is my duty to speak to you at this critical juncture and at a decisive turning point upon which our whole existence, progress and regional and international relations depend.

That turning point is the Peace Conference on the Middle East and the fruits it might yield should it succeed, in the form of a new reality that would put an end to the state of fragmentation, uncertainty and waste of time, and usher in a new era of hope, relief and progress. This is the true meaning of a just and lasting peace which we have been striving and will continue to strive to achieve. I believe it does not surprise you that I speak about peace, or about our earnest efforts to attain peace, to preach its preeminence within our hopes, to emphasize its importance for us to continue our progress and pursue our march as a state. Peace is essential to us in leading a normal life which is the legitimate right of every individual, in order to dream, plan for oneself, and for the future of one's family, to raise one's standard of living away from fear, worry and confusion. It is also the legitimate right of each nation in order to develop and progress free from threat and preventing the exhaustion of the country's capabilities and resources. We have been discussing the peace issue for a long time. We have made it a symbol for a better life for future generations. In the light of the developments of the Palestinian problem with all the pain, complications and sacrifices that that entailed to our steadfast homeland, peace has become a national objective that we have striven to attain, and a political strategic foundation upon which to proceed.

On this basis, we have played a central role at both the Arab and international levels. For over a quarter of a century we were amongst the first to initiate efforts and contribute toward resolving the Palestinian problem and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Consequently we have, since 1967, responded positively to every peace initiative based on international legitimacy. We welcomed President Bush's speech to the United States Congress on the 6th of March in which he declared his determination to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, as well as the restoration of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and guaranteeing security to all countries of the region.

In fact, we have consistently reaffirmed in every political statement we made our adherence to a just and comprehensive peace and the need to implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for any peaceful settlement of this conflict. Even when we and the whole world were preoccupied with the Gulf crisis, the cause of peace never escaped our attention. We expressed this through our insistence that the international community should deal with Israel's occupation of Arab land with the same measures with which it dealt with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We called earnestly for the linking between resolving both conflicts on the same basis of international legitimacy. As a result of many considerations and serious international changes, the time has now come when a serious attempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and to establish peace is being made through the convening of a conference. What is our position? What are we to do?

One might ask: why should we go to the Peace Conference while the Israeli leadership constantly insists

that it will not give up one inch of the occupied territories? The answer to this is: our cause is not only between us and Israel but also between the world and Israel. It is between the supremacy of international law in strengthening world peace and the flouting of it. The whole world rejects what Israel's leadership is saying because it contravenes international legitimacy. Indeed, a relatively growing segment of Israelis are not too far from this world view. The Israeli leadership has in the past adopted this view regarding the settlements in the Sinai, when it kept insisting on not dismantling those settlements. However, the Israeli Government then had to change its position as a result of the negotiations and international pressure it found itself under to reach peace with Egypt which had adhered to the principle of international legitimacy.

Besides, let us assume that Israel will adopt a rigid position in the negotiations with the purpose of preserving the status quo to its advantage. This will make it clear to the world that Israel is the enemy of peace and stability in the region contrary to what it has been claiming, because it is clear that the basis for resolving the conflict should be international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. In this case, Israel will stand to lose more than us. In fact our losses will be far greater if we do not participate than if we do and fail in the negotiations.

Because just peace would touch every aspect of our lives, it necessitates our serious response to every serious attempt to achieve it. Hence, to make efforts trying to achieve it is a national duty. To run away from it is letting our nation down irrespective of any cosmetic justification.

Also one might say: since only a small patch of Jordanian territory is occupied by Israel what is in the Conference for us?

The answer to this is: since when can we separate Jordan's future from the reality and future of the Palestinian problem? And since when is diplomacy conducted without any consideration of geographic proximity and demographic links? Didn't our political history and our socio-economic conditions take shape as a consequence of the Palestinian problem and how it developed? Didn't Jordan receive three huge waves of displaced Palestinians until now? Didn't this cause an imbalance in the equation of resources and people which in turn led to the current socio-economic hardships we now face? Nevertheless, Jordanians should be proud that had their country not been established on this land, nothing would have been left to discuss now. And that had it not been for their sacrifices and struggle throughout the course of the Palestinian problem there would not have been a West Bank left for us to retrieve for its rightful owners on the basis of Security Council resolutions; that had it not been for the unity of Jordan and the West Bank, that included Arab Jerusalem which we saved in 1948, we would not have the cause of Jerusalem, especially since all other Arab states stood with the rest of the world in favour of the internationalization of the Holy City except for Pakistan, and Britain who was bound to Jordan by a treaty. Jordanians, irrespective of their roots, should be proud that, together, they have withstood the consequences of the tragedy which fell upon Palestine and its people.

The answer is also: the Conference is a Peace Conference. In other words, the retrieving of territory would be one and not all of its consequences. For there is also the issue of regional security and peace between the countries of the region as well as the issue of the environment, water and economic development. These issues require cooperation and collective agreements. Jordan, which is at the centre of the East Mediterranean region, cannot disassociate itself from the efforts aimed at resolving those issues and not be a part in the agreements that could be reached. These issues concern Jordan, its future and its regional role. I doubt that any of our people would expect us to be so naive as to choose to isolate ourselves, be forgotten and whither away. I am sure that you are aware that this particular phase of the world's history is one of interdependence between peoples and nations. Thus, we must be involved in the drive for peace because it concerns our present and future and has an impact on our continuity. Otherwise the outcome, God forbid, will be ominous dangers.

Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress,

God said in His Holy Book:

"For the covenants of security and safeguard enjoyed by the Quraysh, their covenants covering journeys by winter and summer, let them adore the Lord of this House, who provides them with food against hunger, and with security against fear of danger."

An introspective reading of this divine Sura reveals that God in His wisdom has defined for any caretaker his responsibilities toward his followers, for all times and places, in two essential ways: that of providing them with food against hunger, and securing them against fear of danger. Certainly the contemporary interpretation of preventing hunger cannot mean the opening of poor houses or the distribution of free meals. Indeed, it means the creation of job opportunities through utilizing the state's resources, educating and training its citizens to participate in developing all sectors of society. As far as securing them against fear of danger is concerned, it also has many definitions, ranging from the respect and protection of human rights and freedoms, to insuring material and social security for the individual citizen, and protecting the state's stability and security. This is the leadership's foremost responsibility. In all honesty, I tell

you that it has become increasingly difficult to shoulder these responsibilities under the current conditions. Indeed, it has become a great challenge to do so, a challenge which is obvious to all those who are aware of Jordan's difficult financial, economic and social conditions. Jordan is practically under siege; Jordan has limited resources; Jordan has one of the highest population growth rates; in short, Jordan has both unemployment and hunger.

On the other hand, Jordan is a country whose people have pride and dignity and are imbued with perseverance, determination and loyalty. Our participation in the Peace Conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense or at any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determination to adhere to international legitimacy. We will participate to restore our rights, honouring our loyalty to our Jerusalem and our commitment to stand beside the Palestinian people and to help them put an end to their tragedy by regaining their sovereignty on their soil; to support them to obtain their legitimate rights so that they can live like other people, secure in their homeland seeking their prosperity.

Peace which results from negotiations is permanent because it is the outcome of mutual understanding and accommodation between the parties to the conflict, but without sacrificing rights or deviating from the principle of international legitimacy. For peace to be permanent it must be balanced and not governed by a disparity between the materially strong and weak. It must be founded on the basis of right and justice and the common good of those who conclude it. This will ensure that future generations will reap its benefits and will, therefore, protect it. Hence, the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations cannot be forfeited or ignored. It is the genesis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which applies to Arab Jerusalem as well as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights. This Resolution means the complete withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the Arab occupied territories including Arab Jerusalem, exactly as was understood in the Egyptian peace treaty when Israel withdrew from the Sinai which it occupied as a result of the same war. This also means that the settlements are illegal and that to continue with this policy is rendering the principle of land for peace void of its content. This policy would then constitute an obstacle to the peace process which must be removed.

Brothers and sisters,

Today we face the challenge of a just peace. It is a serious challenge which puts us at a crossroad where illusions conflict with the truth, fantasy with reality, complacency with the urge to act, the proclivity to accuse, outbid and slander with the spirit of responsibility, discouragement with encouragement, selfishness with altruism, and comfort in the familiar with exploring the horizon of the unfamiliar.

Nevertheless, as night follows day, I am confident that our people, and each and every one of you, are capable of defeating all the elements of negativism, illusion and frustrations. This can only be accomplished by:

First: A sharpened sense of responsibility at all levels. My address to you today is but an expression of this sense of responsibility toward each and every one of you and our people, be they in their cities, villages or camps. It is my responsibility toward our country and its strength, its existence and future and my responsibility toward ensuring security and prosperity for its people. Comprehensive and just peace is the key to transforming our conditions toward a brighter future we all seek.

Undoubtedly, you share in this sense of responsibility irrespective of your positions and roots because this is an extension of your responsibilities toward yourselves, your children and families, your fellow citizens, and our Palestinian brethren. It also relates to your concern to preserve a safe and prosperous homeland. I do not believe that our sense of national responsibility has ever been tested as it is now. This test lies in the degree of support we will give to our Jordanian negotiating team by standing behind it and with all our capabilities. I hereby announce that I personally, bound by the sense of duty incumbent upon me toward all of you, will employ all my energy to support our delegation in its noble national task. I am confident that our people, who have been frequently tested and have proved their worthiness and loyalty, will prove again that they are capable of withstanding this test by giving their full support to our delegation with pride and dignity.

Secondly: Courage. Peace demands no less courage than war. It is the courage to meet the adversary, his attitudes and arguments, the courage to face hardships, the courage to bury senseless illusions, the courage to surmount impending obstacles, the courage to engage in a dialogue to tear down the walls of fear and suspicion. It is the courage to face reality. I do not doubt that our Jordanian people who are familiar with hardships and who have been raised with moral and physical courage, armed with righteousness and faith, are well qualified and confident in their ability to meet the challenge of peace and to realize it so that all the children of Abraham will reap its fruits.

Thirdly: Discipline and organization. The challenge we face is enormous and complicated. It may last for many years to come. Thus, we should not expect

(Continued on page 6)

Realities demand participation in peace conference

(Continued from page 5)

speedy results and an already made solution. The process of peace will be difficult and tedious. This necessitates that we should mobilize all of our national energies and provide the right atmosphere, in a manner that helps us to meet this challenge and ensure our success. Good organization requires that we select properly the working committees which will conduct the negotiations in a manner that will facilitate the achievement of our objectives of a just peace. Discipline also demands, besides providing the proper conditions, the enlistment of all, in solidarity and awareness, to stand behind and support the effort of our Government in its national undertaking.

Foremost amongst the duties in this respect is the need for an efficient media characterized by reason, awareness and knowledge as opposed to emotions and sensationalism, which could only lead to more illusion and further deterioration. There is no need for a media which repeats verbatim statements by the enemies of peace designed to provoke, discredit and instill despair in the viability of the efforts to achieve peace. What is required is a media which upholds the interests of the people and state, not a media interested in exploiting the feelings of people and harm and ruin their interests.

Fourthly: Nationalism. By this, I mean genuine nationalism which begins with the full appreciation of the conditions of the state, its assets and liabilities, and not from fantasies or wishful thinking that cannot be exchanged anywhere. I also mean by it, the initiation of ideas and decisions based on the interest of the country and not to pursue the realization of selfish or parochial interests. I also mean by nationalism the ability to ascertain what is possible in order to achieve it and not miss it. Above all, can anyone pretend that he is more of a nationalist than those who cling to their land and its soil as is the case with our brethren, the Palestinians, in their occupied homeland? True nationalism does not give the right to some to deny it to others because no one can claim a monopoly on it. Nationalism does not mean that we can mislead, discredit or unjustly undermine the Security institutions which must remain apolitical to enable them to be the shield for the country in facing any threat to the State. True nationalism should not exploit democracy to spread confusion or feed divisiveness. True nationalism aims at safeguarding the country, its people, its soil and its institutions.

Fifthly: Awareness and Knowledge. These constitute the basic premises of achieving peace. I have no doubt that we, who have experienced the Palestinian problem in all its dimensions, must be fully aware of all its developments and ramifications. We must also be aware of the effects of both the regional and global balance of powers as well as the impact of the dramatic changes on it and world events.

However, it would be useful to survey the most significant facts, events and developments, the effects of which have led to the crossroad at which we stand today, as well as a number of important aspects on the basis of which the Peace Conference would be convened.

As for the facts, events and developments:

First, let me remind you of a fact I previously made reference to, namely that no observer closely scrutinizing the graph line of the Palestinian issue can fail to notice its steady decline. To be sure, what could have been achieved out of any peace opportunity has always proved to be less than that offered by the previous one. This, indeed, has been the trend since the thirties despite the justice of the issue. If there is any significance to this it can only mean that our grasp, as Arabs and Palestinians, of the regional and international situation at every peace opportunity had always fallen short of what was required. Indeed, we have failed to deal with the events within the framework of what is possible and reasonable and have, consequently, lost one opportunity after another. This led to a situation whereby 65% of the West Bank territories have been confiscated by Israel, and where the plight of the Palestinian people today is one best described as dispersion and uncertainty in the Diaspora and increased suffering and hardship in the occupied territories.

Secondly, the present Israeli leadership feels itself to be the only beneficiary from the continuation of the status quo, i.e. the state of no-war no-peace -- a situation Israel is exploiting to bring about changes on the ground.

There are three facts that encourage Israel to cling to this status quo, facts which we are familiar with and concerned about on a daily basis:

1. The continuous flow of Soviet Jews into Israel by the tens of thousands.
2. The establishment of new settlements.
3. Raising funds from outside sources in order to absorb these immigrants.

Such facts, as plainly evident, are of a dynamic nature and not simply transient. Only a just peace based on international legitimacy can put an end to this ever growing evil leading to the seizure of territories and to the dispersion of the Palestinians by uprooting and expelling them.

Thirdly, the collapse of communism and its alliance and the consequent breakdown of the international balance of power, led not only to the end of the Cold War and a World Order based essentially on bi-polarity, but also to a peace-oriented world, nuclear disarmament, reduction in armed forces, elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the settlement of all regional conflicts, and the protection of the world environment.

Regarding the effect of this state of affairs on the Middle East, the Soviet Union has shifted from the position of a rival to that of a partner of the United States in this proposed peace process. This shift was effected by a shared concept of the two super powers of

a new World Order succeeding the Cold War era. At the same time, the Soviet Union has ceased to be a source of threat to Western, and particularly American, interests in the region -- a fact that has deprived Israel of its most significant asset, namely, being the United States strategic ally in confronting the Soviet Union.

Fourthly: the collapse of the Arab Order, the disequilibrium in the Middle East balance of power, the new alliances, and the drifting exclusively toward the nation-state concerns as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. This has left an immediate impact on the Arab outlook regarding the Palestinian issue, as well as on the security considerations of each Arab country.

Fifthly: Jordanians and Palestinians are besieged and they are the parties directly and adversely effected by the continuation of the status quo of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sixthly: The increased American interest in post-Gulf-War stability in the Middle East -- a stability based on the settlement of conflicts and the treatment of their root causes, and not one merely based on the containment and management of crises as has been the case until quite recently. This development, within the context of establishing and consolidating stability, emanated from two factors:

- I. The end of the Cold War period and the beginning of a new phase in which all indications show that competition will essentially be economic and scientific but not military as was the case in the past.
- II. The consequences of the Gulf War and the emphasis it laid on the need to provide stability not only in the oil states but in the neighbouring ones too. The roots of the conflicts in these neighbouring countries are diverse: some are political, some economic, others racial and sectarian. In any event, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue is the most predominant.

All these events and developments, and the regional and international relations they have entailed, subsequently brought about one essential outcome, namely the renewal of efforts in an attempt to arrive at a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, hence the U.S./Soviet initiative to convene a Middle East peace conference. Thus, the Arabs and the rest of the world meet in their mutual desire and interests to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Before discussing this convergence, its elements and its potential, let me outline to you the development of the Arab stance vis-a-vis peace with Israel in terms of the sequence of events that commenced on November, 1967, when two Arab states, of those that had engaged in war with Israel, accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 calling for peace on the basis of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The two states were Jordan and Egypt. Following the October 1973 war United Nations Security Council Resolution 338 was adopted. One of the paragraphs of this Resolution provided for measures pertaining to the implementation of Resolution 242 -- a provision that was accepted by Syria, thereby joining Jordan and Egypt. In 1979 Egypt concluded a peace treaty with Israel. At the Fez Summit Conference in 1982, Arab leaders, including the PLO, unanimously agreed to accept a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian issue. In 1988, the 19th session of the Palestinian National Council declared a Palestinian peace initiative based on the existence of two states on the territories of Palestine -- one Israeli and one Palestinian. The PLO accepted United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

At this juncture, I would like to emphasize an important issue relating to Resolution 242. Deliberations preceding the adoption of the Resolution were based on the principle of land for peace. Jordan participated in these deliberations with the super powers, particularly the United States of America, as it also did in formulating the Resolution based on that principle. Later on the issue of redrawing the armistice lines was raised. Among the significant features of this issue was the manner in which these lines came to divide some villages, and even houses. We accepted the concept of effecting minor changes in the final borders on reciprocal bases, in order to reach a just solution to this problem.

The Arab states have unanimously called for peace and have accepted the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue by peaceful means. The evolution of this position was gradual, beginning with the acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 by both Jordan and Egypt, and ending with the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative, which gained Arab and international support, and was followed by an official dialogue between the United States of America and the PLO in Tunisia.

During this period initiatives and international efforts for peace continued. Indeed, we are dealing nowadays with another peace initiative. We may ask what is new now? What is new now is that certain realities have emerged:

First: The seriousness of the present American Administration in its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement. This was manifested in President Bush's address to Congress on March 6th; in the dictates of the interests of America and the industrialized countries in the Middle East; in the seven visits made by Secretary of State James Baker to the countries in the area within the last six months; in the contents of Mr. Baker's talks with the parties concerned and the letters of assurances received from him; and in the recent attitude taken by the American President regarding the loan guarantees requested by Israel for the purpose of absorbing Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Second: The transformation of the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States from one of antagonistic competition, where each was bent on foiling the other's peace endeavours, into that of cooperation and partnership to bring about peace.

These two facts have contributed to a convergence of views between the Arab side and the influential international parties for the resumption of a peace endeavour that is more serious than any other previous ones.

You are undoubtedly aware of the elements that constitute the framework for the Peace Conference, since the media has reported on the discussions between the United States Secretary of State with every party he visited in the region.

Nevertheless, I deem it useful to survey a number of important elements that compose the general framework of the Peace Conference.

First: Peace negotiations will take place on two tracks. The first is Palestinian-Israeli. The second is Arab-Israeli, through bilateral committees. There will be a Syrian-Israeli Committee; a Lebanese-Israeli Committee; a Joint Jordanian/Palestinian-Israeli Committee.

I would like now to reaffirm the Jordanian position regarding Palestinian participation. Jordan, which had taken the disengagement decision in 1988, prefers Palestinian participation to take place on the basis of an Israeli-Palestinian Committee, i.e. an independent Palestinian Delegation to attend the Conference. However, Jordan has no objection to providing an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation under which they can attend the Conference through a joint Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation, if this would help in the convening of the Conference, and if the Palestinian leadership accepts this procedure.

Secondly: regional issues of common interest to all the countries in the region will be discussed in a third committee -- a committee in which other countries, including those of the Gulf Cooperation Council would participate. Among such regional issues are: resolving water and environmental problems, reductions of weapons of mass destruction, and effecting social and economic balance among the peoples of the area through joint development programmes.

Thirdly: United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 shall form the basis on which the Conference will convene and the basis on which negotiations will be conducted. The Conference will convene under the auspices of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and will include a representative of the Presidency of the European Community as well as a representative of the United Nations Secretary General. The United States and the Soviet Union will inform the United Nations Secretary General of the progress of the negotiations.

Fourthly: Agreements arrived at by the negotiating parties shall eventually be registered at the United Nations.

Fifthly: A Jordanian shall head the joint Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation, but the Jordanians shall negotiate the Jordanian dimension, while the Palestinians shall discuss the Palestinian dimension. The joint Delegation will afford both Jordan and the Palestinians an opportunity to take the lead in addressing central issues of concern to them in the bilateral negotiations.

Sixthly: The Conference will provide all parties including Jordan and the Palestinians with an opportunity to make a full statement of their views.

Seventhly: Any party at the Conference has the right to raise any issue or subject it deems desirable and no other party shall have the right to object to any person attending or to anything said. Accordingly, any Arab or Palestinian position can be made known with all force and clarity without the slightest reservation.

Eighthly: The Palestinian dimension shall be the only one discussed in two phases: the first is that of the terms of the transitional period; the second is that of agreement over the final status. There is a link between the two stages, represented by the commencement of negotiations on the second phase at the beginning of the third year of the implementation of the first phase. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the said provisions apply to the occupied West Bank.

Ninthly: A core principle is that the terms of reference agreed upon for the first stage of negotiations will not prejudice or prejudice the way issues are resolved in later stages.

Tenthly: United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, as understood by the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and indeed the world, is applicable to all the Arab territories occupied in the war of 1967, including Arab Jerusalem. Resolution 242, as understood by those parties, is based on the principle of land for peace, and on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The final status of Jerusalem, as far as the American position is concerned, will be determined by negotiations providing that Jerusalem will not be divided as it had been prior to the 1967 war.

Eleventhly: The United States of America assured Jordan that it shall do its utmost that negotiations pertaining to the transitional period will be concluded in one year. This means that it is not improbable for us to witness, within one year from the commencement of negotiations, the beginning of the termination of Israeli occupation, thus enabling our Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take up their responsibilities of self-government.

(Continued on page 7)

'Genuine nationalism begins with full appreciation of conditions of state'

These are the principal features of the proposed Peace Conference. As it may be noticed, those features contain basic general principles such as adherence to the formula of land for peace, the application of Resolution 242 to all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. These features also include details, particularly those concerning Palestinian participation.

As I mentioned, we welcomed this initiative from the beginning because it is based on international legitimacy. I received the Secretary of State James Baker on every visit to Jordan. I contacted President Bush directly a few times. In every communication I conveyed to President Bush and his Secretary of State our position regarding the components of the initiative and our support for the peace, to be realized through acceptable negotiations and based on conventionally accepted international principles. As you know, all the concerned Arab parties agreed to participate in the proposed Peace Conference including the PLO.

In this respect, we welcome the decision taken by the 20th session of the Palestinian National Council regarding the Peace Conference.

It was indeed a positive and responsible decision which embodied the degree of competence of our brethren, the representatives of the Palestinian people, in respect to their democratic practice, their deep appreciation and commitment to their cause and their people who placed their trust in them. This has earned them the appreciation of many around the world. For they have reaffirmed their credibility by opening the doors for efforts to reach a just peace and to resolve their problem through peaceful means.

Brothers and sisters,

We are at a crossroad made by national and global

realities which touch every Jordanian here and every Palestinian in the occupied territories and in the Diaspora.

These realities effect our present and future and have a bearing on our national life and how to deal with the challenges beginning with unemployment and leading to our national identity and our national security. These realities demand the historic decision of participating in the Peace Conference. This Conference, if it succeeds, will enable us to transform these realities into positive forces that will take us from despair to hope, from confrontation and four decades of suffering, anxiety and pain that accompanied it, and which left an imprint on our lives, to peace and its promise of security, stability, opportunities and prosperity for all; from the no-war no-peace situation and the continuation of the status quo with its real dangers, to a condition of certainty and ease which will enhance the creativity and hopes of the younger generation.

Consequently, we in Jordan, while being fully aware of the real situation and the global and regional realities, and in light of the great sufferings of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the oppressive policies that they have been subjected to, as well as the threat to their presence and existence on their soil as a result of immigration and settlements, and because of the direct effects this will have on Jordan, will therefore participate in the Peace Conference. We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people, to enable us to lead a normal life, and in order to halt the depletion of our resources and energies. This will allow us to maintain support for the struggling Palestinian people who have endured more than what can be described.

In short, this is our decision which we make for the sake of a just peace which will renew hope in our-

selves and put an end to the status quo which, if it is maintained, will continue to gnaw at us bit by bit until it is too late.

Let us awake and put an end to self-destruction in our minds and our beings. Let us put an end to the sweeping tendencies of outbidding each other and to illusions. Let us heed God, for our nation, our children, our present and our future. Let us shoulder our responsibilities and not seek escapism under the guise of leaving it to future generations. Let us remember that the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians cannot afford the luxury of betting on the unknown.

Let me disclose this to you. As you know, I am on the threshold of my autumn years of shouldering responsibility. I am now in the fortieth year on the throne and in the thirty-ninth year since I assumed my constitutional powers. Recently, a question has been weighing heavily on me: should I give in to the call within me to rest, which I badly need, or should I continue to maintain the trust you have placed with me? I contemplated the question and thought of the difficult period our country is going through. I concluded that to think of doing so now is no more than an escape from duty. I then decided to continue to shoulder my responsibilities in spite of the hardships involved in the hope that, with God's help, we will pass through this difficult phase into a better one for you, my brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. I praise God, whom I fear none but Him. I thank Him who has guided me to be amongst those who only seek His satisfaction, serving their nations and living with a clear conscience, so that the judgement of future generations will be for them not against them.

Depending on God and His guidance, we beseech the Almighty to help us to shoulder this historic responsibility through which we seek His satisfaction and the well-being of our people and nation.

King announces decision

(Continued from page 1)

ties and their ramifications, to predict possible consequences and to seek a common and meaningful objective, for what is at stake is the destiny of our country and the future of our nation," the King said.

The King, who postponed Saturday's conference on Thursday last week because of influenza, said his decision to address the national congress of public representatives rather than political parties was prompted by the delay in the full implementation of the National Charter's directives, including the formation of political parties and national elections based on political pluralism.

"Were it not for those events which look as if, by surprise, we would have carried out our national agenda," he said, "I would have been able to meet you here today, through you, our people about an issue that will constitute, as I expect, a watershed between uncertainty and clarity of vision, between erasing responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality by confronting challenges with courage, determination and faith," the King said.

The King analyzed the argument for Jordan's participation in the proposed peace conference and called on citizens had politicians to extend their support to the Jordanian negotiating team and confront the elements of separatism, illusion and frustration. "I hereby announce that I personally, bound by the sense of duty incumbent upon me toward all of you, will employ all my energy to support our delegation in its noble national task," King Hussein said in his one-hour address to over 2,000 politicians and public personalities gathered at the Palace of Culture.

"We have consistently reaffirmed in every political statement we made our adherence to a just and comprehensive peace and the need to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 as the basis for any peaceful settlement of

this conflict," the King added.

The King disclosed some of the key details that had been discussed with the United States, which has been trying since March to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The King said there was seriousness on the part of the administration of President George Bush in its efforts for peace in the Middle East. The King referred to Bush's speech to the U.S. Congress in March in which he underscored the implementation of U.N. resolutions as the basis for peace in the Middle East and the subsequent American moves spearheaded by Secretary of State James Baker who has visited the region seven times since March.

The King also referred to Mr. Bush's decision to seek a delay in considering Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to settle its debt to the United States.

The King said the disagreements of East-West tensions had led to a new atmosphere for a "peace endeavour" that is more serious than any other previous ones.

The King also detailed some of the key elements that compose the framework of the proposed conference, which will convene under joint American-Soviet sponsorship and will be attended by a representative of the European Community presidency as well as an envoy of the United Nations secretary-general.

Negotiations will be on a two-track basis, with each Arab party discussing with Israel through bilateral committees as well as a Jordanian/Palestinian-Israeli committee in addition to a Palestinian-Israeli committee.

The King reaffirmed Jordan's offer of a joint delegation with the Palestinians so that a key hurdle could be removed in the path towards the peace conference. But he reiterated that the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict will be exclusively dealt with by the Palestinian component of the joint delegation, which will be headed by a Jordanian.

Regional issues of common interest — water and environment, and elimination of weapons of mass des-

truction and social and economic development programmes etc. — will be discussed by an Arab-Israeli committee in which the Arab parties directly involved in the conflict, as well as the Gulf states will take part.

The conference will convene on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 and negotiations will also be based on the two key U.N. documents and agreements achieved at the conference will be eventually registered at the world body.

All parties involved will have an opportunity to present its full views to the conference and has the right to raise any issue or subject it seems fit without any other party raising any objection.

The Palestinian dimension shall be discussed on two phases. "The first is that of the terms of the transitional period; the second is that of agreement over the final status," the King said. "There is a link between the two stages," he said.

The King said the beginning of the second phase of the implementation of the first year. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the same provisions apply to the occupied West Bank.

"The United States of America assured Jordan that it shall do its utmost that negotiations pertaining to the transitional period will be concluded in one year," the King said.

"This means that it is not improbable for us to witness, within one year from the commencement of negotiations, the beginning of the termination of Israeli occupation," he said.

The terms of reference agreed upon for the first stage of negotiations will not prejudice or prejudice the way issues are resolved in later stages.

Resolution 242 has been recognized by the U.S., the Soviet Union and the rest of the international community as applicable to all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, including Arab Jerusalem. Resolution 242 is based on the principle of land for peace and on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. "The final status of Jerusalem, as far as the American position is concerned, will be determined by

negotiations providing that Jerusalem will not be divided as it had been prior to the 1967 war.

The King welcomed the recent Palestine National Council (PNC) decision to accept the peace conference "as a positive and responsible decision which embodied the degree of competence of our brethren, the representatives of the Palestinian people, in respect of their democratic practice, their deep appreciation and commitment to their cause and their people, who placed their trust in them."

The King also referred to the role of the media and said:

"There is no need for a media which repeats verbatim statements by the enemies of peace designed to provoke, discredit and instill despair in the viability of the efforts to achieve peace. What is required is a media which upholds the interests of the people and state, not a media interested in exploiting the feelings of people and state and stirring up sectarian and tribal animosities."

The King underscored the great challenges facing him as the leader of the Jordanian family and revealed that he recently contemplated giving up his throne describing himself as on the threshold of his "autumn years."

The King said that the question of whether to continue had weighed heavily upon him.

"I contemplated the question and thought of the difficult period our country is going through. I concluded that to think of doing so now is no more than an escape from duty," King Hussein said.

The King pointed to Jordan's difficult financial, economic and social conditions describing it as a country "under siege."

"Jordan is a country practically under siege; Jordan has limited resources; Jordan has one of the highest population growth rate; in short, Jordan has both unemployment and hunger," the King said.

He cited a verse from the Quran clearly defining for his caretaker his responsibilities towards his followers as within two categories: providing them with food against hunger and security against fear of danger.

"Certainly the contemporary interpretation of preventing hunger cannot mean the opening of poor houses

or the distribution of free meals," the King pointed out.

"It means the creation of job opportunities through utilizing the state's resources, and training its citizens to participate in developing all sectors of society," he explained.

"As far as securing them against fear of danger is concerned," the King continued, "it also has many definitions."

"This is the leadership's foremost responsibility. In all honesty, I tell you that it has become increasingly difficult to shoulder these responsibilities under the current conditions," the King said.

"Our participation in the peace conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense or at any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determination to adhere to international legitimacy," King Hussein said.

"Let us awake and put an end to self-destruction in our minds and our beings," the King said. "Let us put an end to the sweeping tendencies of outbidding each other and to illusions. Let us heed God, for our nation, our children, our present and our future. Let us shoulder our responsibilities and not seek escapism under the guise of leaving it to future generations. Let us remember that the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians cannot afford the luxury of betting on the unknown."

The congress grouped more than 2,500 representatives of the various political factions, except the Muslim Brotherhood party.

Brotherhood officials said they boycotted the meeting in adherence to the group's opposition to any peace negotiations with Israel.

When Mr. Baker gets to Syria he may take up with President Hafez Al Assad whether he was willing to attend the phase of the peace conference that would deal with such issues as weapons proliferation in the Middle East and security of water.

Mr. Assad told Mr. Baker Sept. 20 that he doubted Syria should participate in negotiations with Israel on those issues while in a state of war with Israel, the officials said Thursday night.

Mr. Baker acknowledged "they have some reservations about the timing of multilateral negotiations." But, he said, "I haven't heard they don't want to participate under any circumstances."

Turkey sends troops into Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

kish warplanes.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted one of the newspaper's correspondents in the north as saying that napalm bombs had been used against farmers and shepherds.

"He indicated that he witnessed the large-scale evacuation of casualties in the targeted area to Zakho hospital. Witnesses have been cited as saying that a number of schools, public installations, and health centres were hit in the raid," the agency reported.

Serdil Kazaz, the representative for Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in Ankara that at least eight Iraqi Kurdish civilians were taken to Zakho hospital with burns after the raid.

One of the hospitalised, Tiyip Abdullah Janger, 28, told the AP that he was in his yard when the attack occurred.

"I was working on my tomatoes," said the victim, whose back was completely burned.

"Six planes came and started to

bomb," Mr. Janger's wife and son were also burned.

Another victim, Obeid Ali, was helping to build an apartment complex in Begova when he saw three planes arrive.

"At first," he said, "I didn't care. I continued the building. I thought these planes were from the U.N."

Mr. Ali's face was puffy with burns and his right hand was bandaged. The other workers at the site were among the wounded, a doctor said.

The Turkish military officer contended there were no civilians living in the area and that intelligence reports showed the valley was used exclusively by the Turkish-Kurdish guerrillas.

Turkish warplanes and helicopters have been searching out and attacking guerrilla positions near the Iraqi border in southeastern Turkey since Tuesday.

In August, Turkish guerrillas killed 10 soldiers in an attack, prompting a week-long land and air operation.

PLO awaiting U.S. assurances

(Continued from page 1)

On Friday, he played down Syria's reluctance to hold talks with Israel on some issues.

Syria's stand "is not something that would prohibit or ban a peace conference or bilateral discussion between Israel and her Arab neighbours about peace."

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JOB VACANCY

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Edberg, Rostagno reach Tokyo final

TOKYO (R) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl's erratic season hit a new Saturday when he lost in straight sets to American Derrick Rostagno in the semifinals of the million-dollar Tokyo Super Indoor Tournament.

But world number one Stefan Edberg overcame Yugoslavia's Goran Ivanisevic 4-6 7-6 7-5 to reach the final.

The Swede, winner of the U.S. Open and Australian Indoor tournaments, has not lost in 16 matches.

Rostagno, ranked 22nd in the world, needed a first set tiebreak to beat former world number one Lendl for the second time this

season. The seventh seed won 7-6 6-2.

He last beat Lendl, the third seed in Japan, 7-6 3-6 6-3 in the ATP Championship in Cincinnati in August.

Rostagno relied on his powerful serves against Lendl but also showed an excellent touch at the net.

"I went into the day looking to be on the offense. I think it was the key today," the American said.

He took the first set after Lendl netted a backhand return on his serve with the tie-break at 6-4 to Rostagno.

After breaking Lendl's service

in the first game of the second set, Rostagno won the decisive sixth game with three aces to go 4-2 up and then easily won the next two games.

"He hit three aces to go 4-2 and then shot some incredible returns on my first serve in the next game," said Lendl.

"He did everything well today. He served well, he was mixing it up with pace, depth and placement," he said.

Lendl reached the Australian Open final at the start of the season, losing to Boris Becker, but failed to win any of the four Grand Slam events for the first time since 1988.

Sabatini eliminated at Zurich tournament

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany, the defending four-time champion, routed qualifier Martina Kochta 6-2, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 European Indoors Tennis Tournament.

Graf, No. 2 ranked in the world, set up a semifinal clash with fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who upset third-seeded compatriot Jana Novotna, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in their quarterfinal.

Graf needed only 35 minutes to eliminate 16-year-old Kochta, a Czechoslovak native playing for Germany.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, a finalist last year, committed numerous unforced errors in a 6-7 (7-9), 3-6 loss to sixth-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat in the round of eight.

Tauziat's semifinal opponent is Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland, the No. 4 seed, who beat seventh-seeded Austrian Judith Wiesner 7-6 (6-3), 6-2.

Sabatini, ranked third worldwide, evidently had not regained form after a one-month tournament break.

Tauziat, 24, was in control throughout most of the one hour, 30 minute match, using powerful groundstrokes and occasional net forays to foil the Sabatini's attacks.

Tauziat, who lost in all eight previous matches with Sabatini, headed for victory after breaking her opponent's service for a 4-2 second-set lead.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

10th inning homer gives Minnesota 2-1 lead in American League playoffs

TORONTO (AP) — Mike Pagliarulo beat the Blue Jays and their bullpen with one swing of the bat.

Pagliarulo hit a pinch-home run with one out in the 10th inning Friday night to give Minnesota a 3-2 victory over Toronto and a 2-1 lead in the American League playoffs. The homer off Mike Timlin also broke a streak of 12 consecutive scoreless innings by Blue Jays relievers.

Game 4 of the best-of-7 series will be played Saturday when Jack Morris, the winner of the first game, faces Todd Stottlemyre. Of the seven previous AL playoffs tied 1-1, the team winning Game 3 went on to win the series five times. Toronto got a good performance from its bullpen, but the Twins were even better. David West, who slumped in the second half, pitched 2-3 shutout innings, allowing one hit, and series surprise Carl Willis worked two scoreless innings, giving up one hit.

Pagliarulo was batting for rookie Scott Leius, who was 0-for-3. It was the sixth pinch homer in playoff history, and the third in the AL. The last in the AL was by Kansas City's Pat Sheridan in 1985, also against the Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays kept a late-arriving Skydome crowd of 51,454 on their feet in the first inning when Joe Carter hit Scott Erickson's 3-2 pitch 451 feet to center field with two outs. Candy Maldonado made it 2-0 with an RBI double later in the inning.

Toronto, however, could have had much,

much more. In the first seven innings, the Blue Jays were 1-for-8 with runners in scoring position.

Erickson (20-8) staggered through four-plus innings, allowing three hits and walking five, the latter is season high. He walked the first two batters in the fourth with no damage and the Blue Jays wasted two walks and two David West wild pitches in the fifth.

Minnesota scored a run in the fifth when Shane Mack tripled to right field leading off and beat second baseman Roberto Alomar's ill-advised throw home on Kent Hrbek's slow grounder. On Mack's triple, Carter got his foot stuck on the plastic wall and appeared to sprain his ankle. Carter left in the seventh for a pinch runner.

Rookie Chuck Knoblauch, 6-for-10 in the series, doubled with one out in the sixth and scored on Kirby Puckett's single to right. Carter's strong throw home was cut off by first baseman John Olerud, whose relay home was too late to get sliding Knoblauch.

After a walk to Olerud and a single by Kelly Gruber in the first, Maldonado snapped an 0-for-15 playoff slump with a run-scoring double. Erickson, only 8-5 in the second half, got out of the inning when Rance Mulliniks flied deep to center field.

Key, who went 10 days between starts, retired the first 11 batters before Puckett doubled in the fourth. The Toronto left-hander gave up two runs on five hits in six innings.

Pirates face Tomahawk mania as N.L. playoffs move to Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates will have to deal with the National League's hottest pitcher and some of its most enthusiastic fans in this afternoon's third game of the National League playoffs.

The teams split the first two games to Pittsburgh. Now the Pirates will be faced with more than 50,000 screaming Atlanta fans doing the Tomahawk Chop and banging tom-toms in support of their worst to first bunch.

"I think our fans are the 10th player on the field for us," Braves Manager Bobby Cox said. "They certainly give our players a lift."

"There will be a lot of energy in that ball park. It will be electric."

More importantly, perhaps, the Pirates will be facing John Smoltz, whose 14-13 record includes a 12-2 mark after the All-Star break. The Pirates will go with their biggest winner, John Smiley (20-8).

The Pirates lost the regular-season series to Atlanta 9-3 and were 0-6 in Atlanta — and that was before the Tomahawk Chop mania began. The two teams last met

in Atlanta on July 31. "We know it's going to be whoop-whoop. You know, that thing they do," the Pirates' Bobby Bonilla said. "We're ready for it, we think."

Really? "I don't think they know the proportion to what it will be," Braves catcher Greg Olson said. "It'll be different for us being in a situation like this. They'll be coming at us like it was Custer's last stand."

Pittsburgh's Andy Van Slyke said. "We have the advantage now," Braves left fielder Lonnie Smith said.

"I'm more concerned about the Braves' lineup than I am their fans," said Smiley, who was 8-1 in day games this year.

"Once you get on the field, you don't see any of that stuff," said Pirates catcher Mike LaValliere, a left-handed hitter who will be making his first start of the series with Smoltz, a right-hander, on the mound.

"The concentration takes over. If you're starting to notice those things, you're not concentrating. You're in trouble," LaValliere said.

of the noise level. "I still think it's fun though. I've got my own thing developing right here," he said, pointing to a 3-foot-long form rubber sword, "to fight the Tomahawk."

Fishing dominated the first two games. The Braves scored only two runs and had 13 hits, a 190 batting average. But they got the split because of Steve Avery, who stopped the Pirates 1-0 on Thursday night, outdueling ex-Brave Zane Smith. Avery allowed six hits in 8 1-3 innings before Alejandro Pena got the final two outs for the save.

The Pirates won the opener 5-1 as Doug Brabek shut down the Braves on three hits in six innings and Bob Walk pitched the final three innings, allowing only a homer to David Justice in the ninth.

Cox, however, is not contented by the lack of offense. "If we were facing mediocre pitching, I'd be concerned," he said. "But Brabek and Zane Smith are not mediocre. I would like to see more offense, but it will come."

Mid-table Rovers, bankrolled by millionaire backer Jack Walker, have been pursuing Dalglish for several weeks after sacking former manager Don Mackay just three games into the season.

The issue of compensation for Liverpool appeared to be a major stumbling block.

Dalglish left the club only six months into a five-year contract with an agreement that he would not join one of their competitors.

Dalglish returns to management with Blackburn

LONDON (R) — Former Liverpool manager Kenyon Dalglish has taken over as manager of second division Blackburn Rovers, the club said Saturday.

Dalglish shocked English soccer last February when he quit Liverpool with the club on top of the first division, saying he could no longer cope with the pressure.

But the 40-year-old Scot, who led Liverpool to three league titles and two F.A. Cup triumphs,

said he was now ready to devote himself to trying to win Blackburn promotion to English soccer's new Premier League which is due to kick off next season.

"I have spent these last few months recharging the batteries. People will ask why I should have come to Blackburn, but they have impressed me as a club with ambitions to get into the Premier League," Dalglish said.

"Whether that can be done immediately is something I could not guarantee. But I will guarantee this... I will give 100 per cent to the job and so will everybody else at the club."

Former Wimbledon manager Ray Harford is to be Dalglish's assistant.

The announcements were made just before Blackburn's home game with Plymouth which Dalglish and Harford watched from the stand.

Mid-table Rovers, bankrolled by millionaire backer Jack Walker, have been pursuing Dalglish for several weeks after sacking former manager Don Mackay just three games into the season.

The issue of compensation for Liverpool appeared to be a major stumbling block.

Dalglish left the club only six months into a five-year contract with an agreement that he would not join one of their competitors.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of these Sundays when it is best that you live strictly according to the highest principles and precepts which you believe and to live the Golden Rule in all of your associations.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your friends are bubbling over with good ideas by which you can gain your own personal longings much more readily and can also make some new allies.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You now find that whatever has been of utmost importance to you in career matters can be so put into a streamlined fashion that it is easier in future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find the new means by which to gain the good will of wise and purposeful individuals with whom you would like to be connected.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make headway now in getting all of those responsibilities in back of you and also make sure that you do listen to that inner voice.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Now you find that whatever has been important to you can be taken to a talented associate who can round out whatever parts of the plan you are confused about.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Certainly a day when you can show your devotion to others with

more service to them in the way that does mean the most to them so be thoughtful.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is a great day for you to thoroughly enjoy yourself so get together with those with whom you have any sort of affection and have a happy time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) See if you can't add some charm or attractive articles to your own home so it glitters and glows with more value and distinction than before this.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is that time for you to make a point to get out and to see those close business companions with whom you need more discussions with.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You need to tone up your budget and your financial arrangements so that they operate better and give you a more prosperous feeling.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) This is your moment to make sure you do get in touch with those compatible friends who like you and with whom you have a rapport bringing and you them benefits.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate some private backing from one who knows his business backwards and forwards is very good for you now.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by HENRI ARNOLD and BOB LEE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ERQUE

FETAC

TELTEK

QUAPOE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

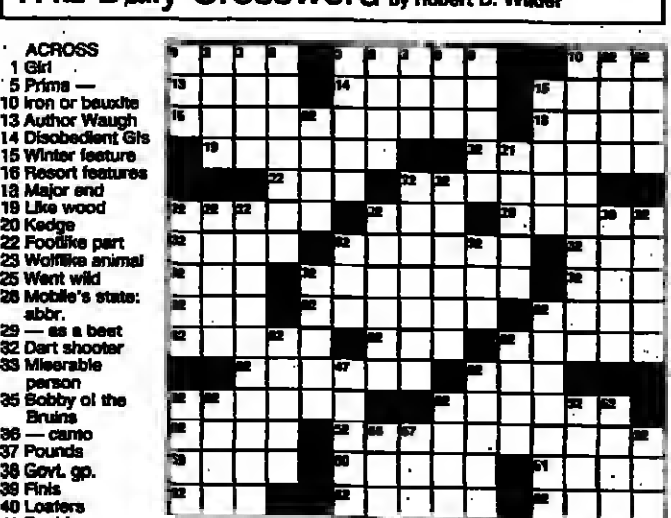
Print answer here: IN HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WIPED HENNA ACTUAL GAMBLE

Answer: What that smart-alecky dog was — A "GRUNT-ALL."

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:



47 USSR river 52 Bounce back

48 Annoyed 53 Peace

49 45 Bombback 54 "I — Camera"

50 Assault 57 Despicable one

51 Advantage 58 — Canals

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK Date 10/10/91 CLOSE	NEW YORK Date 11/10/91 CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.7153	1.7235
Deutsche Mark	1.6952	1.6885
Swiss Franc	1.4830	1.4795
French Franc	5.7760	5.7540
Japanese Yen	130.35	129.53
European Currency Unit	1.2117**	1.2124

** USD Per ECU
* European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Intercontinental Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.31	5.31	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.18	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.25	9.37	9.45
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.18	8.06	8.06
French Franc	9.12	9.18	9.25	9.37
Japanese Yen	6.81	6.50	6.21	6.00
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.87	9.87	9.87

Forward Rates

Currency	USD/DM	DM/DM	DM/DM	DM/DM
Gold	359.65	7.00	Silver	4.13

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Rate	Rate
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.1808	1.1867
Deutsche Mark	0.4058	0.4078
Swiss Franc	0.4637	0.4660
French Franc	0.1191	0.1197
Japanese Yen	0.5290	0.5316
Dutch Guilder	0.3602	0.3620
Swedish Krona	0.1111	0.1117
Italian Lira	0.0542	0.0545
Belgian Franc	0.07970	0.07980

Other Currencies

Currency	Rate	Rate
Baharal Dinar	1.7920	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0776
Saudi Riyal	0.1825	0.1832
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1861	0.1866
Qatari Riyal	0.2090	0.2100
Egyptian Pound	1.7580	1.7780
Omani Riyal	0.1851	0.1856
UAE Dirham	0.3600	0.3675
Greek Drachma	1.4750	1.4700

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/10/91	Close	9/10/91	Close
All-Share	121.20		122.01	
Banking Sector	102.34		103.10	
Insurance Sector	122.47		125.10	
Industry Sector	150.01		150.41	
Services Sector	128.41		130.10	

British inflation drops

LONDON (R) — British year-on-year inflation dropped last month to 4.1 per cent, falling below the European Community average for the first time in five years, the government said Friday.

The Central Statistical Office said the September headline rate of inflation, as measured by the retail price index, fell to 4.1 per cent, the lowest in Britain in 3½ years, from 4.7 in August and nearly 11 per cent a year ago.

Economists had looked for a slightly lower September figure, but treasury chief secretary David Mellor called Friday's figures "most encouraging" and said Britain was on course to get below four per cent by the end of the year.

"We are back below the European Community (EC) average for inflation for the first time for five years," he said. There is no reason why the economy should not move ahead."

Italians do not rate tax evasion as much of a sin

ROME (R) — Italians asked in a poll to rate what was sinful feared blasphemy might put them on the road to hell but said tax evasion on earth was not much to worry about.

According to the poll by the ISPES social and political studies organization, 85 per cent of those asked said violence was the worst sin, followed by blasphemy (59.9 per cent) and drug addiction and slavery (58.7 per cent each).

But 40.2 per cent believed tax evasion was not a sin at all and 29.7 per cent thought it was only a minor thing.

The results should come as no surprise to the government. Last July, the finance ministry released a list of tax dodgers who had cheated the state out of \$25 billion, enough to pay off a quarter of the budget deficit.

On other moral issues, the poll found that most Italians were not overly concerned about premarital sex. More than 40 per cent believed it was not a sin at all and 28.8 per cent said it was only a minor sin.

Bush vetoes bill to extend unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush vetoed Friday a \$6.4 billion bill that would have provided up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits, calling it a "poorly designed, unnecessarily expensive program."

He said in a letter to the Senate that the bill "violates essential elements" of the budget agreement that lawmakers and the White House agreed to last year because it does not include offsetting cuts to make up for the \$6.4 billion price tag.

"I would gladly sign into law responsible legislation that does not threaten the economic recovery and its associated job creation," Mr. Bush said, repeating his call for an alternative, less costly unemployment package.

The administration has contended that the bill passed by Congress is unnecessary because the recession is over, even though Mr. Bush in recent days has expressed new concerns about the pace of the recovery.

"Trying to deflect Democratic attacks that he is insensitive to the jobless, Mr. Bush said his administration 'is deeply concerned about the needs of the unemployed and their families. It is essential that we take responsible actions to ensure that the economic recovery continues and strengthens, creating new employment opportunities.'"

However, he said, the bill he vetoed, "would effectively destroy the integrity of the bipartisan budget agreement and put into place a poorly designed, unnecessarily expensive program that would significantly increase the federal deficit."

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush invited the congressional leaders of the White House to discuss prospects of getting a less-expensive measure through Congress.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole has proposed a bill that would extend unemployment benefits for up to 10 weeks at a cost of about \$4 billion. In the past,

World Bank criticises Indian agricultural policy

NEW DELHI (R) — Four decades of Indian socialism have ended famines but a labyrinth of subsidies and levies is now channelling cheap food to the urban rich, the World Bank says.

The wealthiest 40 per cent of India's 850 million people claim their share of cheap food from subsidised "fair price" shops in towns and cities, the bank said in a confidential report on Indian agriculture.

A further 40 per cent remain undernourished, half of these eating barely enough to survive even though most of them work on the land, the bank told India's government and foreign donors.

The report is the part of the bank's efforts to advise on how India can get out of a \$72 billion foreign debt trap without starving its poor, most of whom eke out a living by harvesting by hand or leading a bullock in a circle to thresh grain.

"Agricultural policy is in crisis," the report said. "Although farmers have largely been eliminated, hunger remains a persistent problem for nearly 20 per cent of Indian households."

In a euphemistic reference to the thriving black market in state-distributed essential goods, the report called the system "leakage prone."

"High levels of poverty... argue strongly for retaining subsidies as a safety net," the report said. "Yet it is also clear that a significant proportion of benefits are being siphoned off by non-eligible Indians."

It advocated an urgent overhaul of India's bureaucracy.

When India won independence from Britain in 1947, it pursued socialist self-sufficiency to end the famines blamed on colonial exploitation.

It ploughed money into irrigation, fertilisers, new seed discoveries and buying up crops for redistribution.

"This strategy paid off... it targeted the most obvious and pressing need of feeding the nation," the bank said.

But the system has got out of hand, the report said. India's government spent \$7.6 billion on subsidising farmers in the year from April 1, 1989, with farm investment stagnating and no technological breakthroughs in sight to boost crop yields.

The bank said India could safely stop subsidising farmers in regions that have prospered from state investment and let them grow whatever crops they found most profitable.

It urged the government to switch subsidised food to the rural poor and get irrigation and roads running through regions which got left out of the "green

revolution" of the 1960s.

It advised phasing out subsidies for fertilisers, farm credit, electricity and irrigation, saying all these were going to the richest farmers.

Besides, overuse of fertilisers was damaging the environment and cheap water and electricity were running to waste.

The bank asked politicians for meddling with farm credit by putting individual pressure on state-run banks to hand out cheap loans and announcing a mass farm loan waiver last year.

All this had "strained the (agricultural credit) system to the point of near collapse," the report said.

Peasants who subsist on small patches of land still go to moneylenders and become trapped by extortionate interest rates, the report shows, while state banks' clients are the big farmers.

Officials do well, too. Bihar, one of India's poorest states, boasted spending on farm-sector bureaucrats by 150 per cent over four years in the 1980s. Meanwhile it cut maintenance spending on vital rural services, the report said.

The report warned the government that without large-scale reforms, India's poor would never get enough to eat.

But it managed a last-minute note of optimism. "The challenges facing India are great, but so are the potential returns of higher growth and prosperity, falling rural poverty and the laying of solid foundations for a modern agricultural sector," it said.

Romania announces 3-month freeze on wholesale prices

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian government has ordered an across-the-board three-month freeze on wholesale prices, the state news agency Rompres said Friday.

Prices agreed between suppliers and retailers up to the end of last month will be kept unchanged for 90 days and must be registered with the finance ministry by Oct. 15, Rompres said, quoting Economy Minister Eugen Dijmarescu.

The move is intended to restrain inflation, now running at around 200 per cent. It is also another signal that economic reforms are slowing down in the wake of bloody riots which forced the government to resign last month.

Mr. Dijmarescu said firms which disobeyed the price freeze order would be punished.

Earlier this week the minister announced a six-month freeze on prices of staple foods, energy and several other items which had remained either subsidised or controlled after other prices were freed up earlier this year.

Price liberalisation was a key condition to a package of financial help worth almost \$1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Recent backsliding on reform may have put that deal in jeopardy.

Soaring prices were one of the chief complaints of 8,000 coal-

EC offers to forgive \$1b of Third World debt

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) states have offered to forgive up to \$1 billion of debts owed by African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

A spokesman for the EC's executive commission said Friday it was the first time the 12-nation bloc had collectively agreed to forgive Third World debts.

But he added it fell far short of the relief needed by the impoverished ACP nations, whose external debt amounts to more than \$150 billion.

"It's completely insufficient," the spokesman said at a news conference.

Britain, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands had this week opposed an attempt by Brussels to take a lead in international debt relief, an area where decisions are dominated by the Group of Seven rich nations and the Paris Club of official creditors.

EC finance ministers at a meeting Monday delayed a decision on a proposal by development commissioner Manuel Marin to forgive about \$3.6 billion in special loans and risk capital either lent or promised to ACP states since 1975.

The aid — worth 116.8 million European Currency Units (ECU) — is the first instalment of a 10-year, \$13.7 billion (11 billion ECU) EC aid programme for underdeveloped countries approved last December.

which he first put forwards in November 1990.

The debt forgiveness was related to payments made in the first three home aid and trade accords under a system for compensating ACP commodity exporters for price falls.

Compensation payments amounting to just over \$1 billion should, in theory, be repaid by the ACP exporters if commodity prices recover.

But an EC source noted only \$200 million was actually due to be repaid, and debt experts had expressed serious doubts over whether any of the money was ever likely to be reimbursed.

"It's a very small amount in total, especially in view of questions whether ACP countries were expected to repay," the source said.

A commission spokesman said Mr. Marin had doubts over the legal basis of the EC members' decision, and noted the commission's original proposal was still on the table.

The EC also granted \$142 million in aid to help dozens of Third World countries develop their economies, build tourist industries and care for refugees.

At a meeting of national representatives Thursday, EC member states unanimously accepted a British suggestion to adopt the least generous part of Mr. Marin's three-tiered proposal,

Soviet officials confirm low reserves of gold

BANGKOK (R) — A delegation of Soviet government and financial officials arrived in Bangkok Saturday for talks with the richest capitalist nations and took the opportunity to disclose just how little gold Moscow has.

Soviet economic strategist Grigory Yavlinsky confirmed to reporters who met him at the airport that Soviet gold reserves totalled only 240 tonnes, well below some Western estimates which had put the figure at more than 1,500 tonnes.

The Soviet delegates, who will attend next week's International Monetary Fund annual meeting for the first time as associate members, had hoped to win pledges of financial help from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised democracies.

But G-7 officials have said they met here twice in the past two days that they need more information from Moscow on the state of the Soviet economy.

The disclosure of Soviet gold reserves was one of the conditions for large-scale aid to Moscow set by major G-7 creditors, Germany, the United States, and Japan.

Mr. Yavlinsky, who heads the eight-man Soviet delegation, gave the figure of 240 tonnes earlier this month on Soviet television and prompted a rally in world gold prices.

When asked by a reporter if that was the correct figure, he said: "Yes, that is the official figure."

Mr. Yavlinsky said the meetings with G-7 ministers in Bangkok would continue talks between Moscow and capitalist countries that began in London in July.

After those talks, Moscow won promises of humanitarian aid from the United States, the European Community and Japan.

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JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. MN/19/91 for the supply of bolts with nuts.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman supply department until, 2:00 p.m. local time Tuesday 5.11.91.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable, fee of JD 12 for each set of bid documents. The closing date for submission bids is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday 12.11.1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

Yugoslav army begins to leave Zagreb barracks

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — The Yugoslav federal army Saturday began its evacuation of the Borongaj Barracks in Zagreb, which have been blockaded by Croatian forces for almost a month.

A column of military vehicles, escorted by European Community ceasefire monitors, Croatian National Guardsmen and police began leaving the barracks at 1.55 p.m. (1255 GMT).

Reporters counted about 250 vehicles in the column, which left the barracks in a deal which also provided for a relief convoy to be allowed into the besieged eastern Croatian town of Vukovar.

Truck drivers were ready to go alone and brave fierce fighting Saturday to bring much-needed food and medical supplies to the embattled eastern Croatian town of Vukovar.

European Community (EC) and Red Cross officials judged it too dangerous as Vukovar and nearby towns were engulfed yet again in fierce battles.

They decided to return to Zagreb and abandon the second attempt to get the 50-vehicle convoy into Vukovar. The convoy first retreated under fire Friday.

Not long after Saturday's abortive attempt, the Yugoslav Federal Army and Croatian forces agreed in Zagreb that the convoy would be allowed through to Vukovar, a city under constant siege for seven weeks.

"Soon... the convoy will be starting again from Vinkovci to Vukovar," the spokesman for the EC ceasefire monitors, Simon Smits, said in Zagreb.

Before news of the agreement reached Nustar, local Croatian National Guardsmen began gathering near Vukovar for a possible attempt to breach the front and evacuate wounded people.

Drivers, sitting by their halted trucks at the side of the road, said they were prepared to stick out.

"This convoy will go to help the people in Vukovar. Something is being prepared," said a guard officer.

A build-up of Croatian forces began in Vinkovci, 20 kilometres southwest of Vukovar.

Fighters, including special black-shirted commandos, gathered and National Guard armoured vehicles and jeeps arrived, including one with anti-tank missiles.

"We are definitely going to break through if reinforcements come," one guardsman said. "There is no other way. We have to break through."

In the devastated village of Nustar, one kilometre from the Serbian guerrillas' line, tired Croatian fighters were tight-lipped. There were new attacks on Nustar Saturday and one house was still smoking.

When word of the agreement reached Nustar, people relaxed and awaited development.

Nustar, in normal times a village of 3,000 people but now in the centre of one of the main Croatian battlefields, endures daily shelling. Every house is damaged. Most are destroyed.

It is a ghost town. Pigs, chickens, and dogs roam freely in streets which are full of craters from artillery attacks.

But there is evidence of Croatian forces' successes against the army. Several crippled tanks are dotted around the village, including one which is totally destroyed.

A Reuters reporter in Nustar said an artillery duel was under



Way with howitzers and multiple rocket launchers around Vukovar.

Croatian Radio also reported fighting in the central Croatian towns of Pakrac and Karlovac and said the army had taken the Croatian stronghold of Lipik near

Pakrac. The radio said thousands of people had fled Karlovac and Borovo Naselje and Osijek in northern Croatia came under heavy artillery fire. It said five people were killed Friday in Osijek.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sikhs release picture of Romanian diplomat

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh militants delivered a picture of kidnapped Romanian diplomat Liviu Radu to an Indian news agency office Saturday, offering the first proof that they held him. The United News of India said the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) delivered a packet to its New Delhi office containing a two-page statement and a colour picture of Mr. Radu flanked by two Sikhs holding AK-47 rifles. The picture was the first proof since Mr. Radu was abducted Wednesday morning that militants fighting for a Sikh homeland in the northern state of Punjab had kidnapped him. The news agency said the statement accompanying the photograph was written in Punjabi script. It gave no immediate indication of whether it contained demands.

Ruling Cuban party approves reforms

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's ruling Communist Party Friday approved internal reforms aimed at widening the party's influence and representative role among the island's more than 10 million people. Changes to the party statutes approved by delegates on the second day of a policy-making party congress in eastern Cuba included the lifting of a membership ban against Christians and other religious believers. The congress in Santiago de Cuba, 1,000 kilometres south-east of Havana, also moved to slash the bloated party bureaucracy by eliminating with immediate effect the influential secretariat of the Central Committee and the category of substitute members of party bodies. "We have to save our nation, the revolution and socialism and we will do this not only with Communists but with all those who are capable of loving their country," Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is the party's first secretary, told the congress. Ruling out any shift to multi-party politics, the revised statutes defined the Cuban Communist Party as the "single party of the Cuban nation, Marxist-Leninist and 'Mariano' (from 19th century Cuban independence hero Jose Marti)." They called for realism and creativity from its members and for "the widest internal democracy to ensure full freedom of discussion and opinion."

150 more Belgian troops pull out of Zaire

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium said Saturday it would withdraw some 150 paratroopers from Zaire where they protected foreign nationals after rioting last month. Defence Minister Guy Coeque took the decision in line with France which announced Friday it would withdraw some of its remaining troops, a ministry spokeswoman said. This leaves some 700 Belgian soldiers in Zaire, most of them in Kinshasa. Some 150 French soldiers also remain in the Zairean capital. The spokeswoman said the remaining Belgian troops would continue to protect the evacuation of Belgian nationals and that they played a "dissuasive role" in preventing the outbreak of new trouble. Belgium already withdrew 155 troops last Monday and Tuesday.

Poland, Italy sign friendship treaty

WARSAW (AP) — Poland and Italy Friday signed a landmark treaty of friendship and cooperation, the Polish News Agency (PAP) said. The 23-point document covers all major fields of bilateral relations and was signed by Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski and his Italian counterpart Gianni De Michelis. The agreement, which also defines the principles of bilateral consultations, cooperation in European disarmament process and military contacts, will be valid for 20 years and will be automatically extended for 5-year periods. Italy also agreed to support Poland's aspirations for membership in the European Community (EC). The two ministers stressed that the treaty also contributed to advancing European integration and regional security.

U.N. assembly condemns Haitian coup

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly Friday unanimously condemned the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, bolstering an international campaign to reverse the military coup. The United States and the Soviet Union joined in supporting the resolution of the world body which demanded restoration of Haiti's first freely elected president and called for international isolation of its new leaders. The resolution said the world body "strongly condemns the use of violence and military coercion and the decision to replace illegally the constitutional president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide." It did not call for military intervention. Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest and advocate of the poor, was ousted on Sept. 30 in a military coup. He was Haiti's first democratically elected president since the Caribbean nation won its independence from France in 1804.

Pope starts visit to Brazil

NATAL, Brazil (R) — Pope John Paul will find a poorer and sadder Brazil when he touches down Saturday to revisit the world's largest Catholic nation. His 10-day tour will take him through a country where appalling slums can stand almost back to back with million-dollar apartments. Churchmen expect him to urge Brazil to bridge the gap between rich and poor. The Pope will also have to tackle tough issues closer to home. Brazil's Catholic churches are losing an estimated 600,000 members a year to fast-growing Protestant sects, and commentators note that the excitement which preceded the Pope's first visit 11 years ago seems to have faded. Pope John Paul's itinerary will concentrate on places not visited in 1980. As a result he will not travel to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo or Manaus, though he will stop again in the capital Brasilia for talks with President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Comedian Redd Foxx dies at age 68

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian Redd Foxx, who played a crabby junkman on the 1970s U.S. TV series Sanford and Son, died Friday after suffering a heart attack on the set of his new show, a network official said. He was 68. Foxx died Friday evening at Queen of Angels Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre, said Jeff Sagansky, president of CBS Entertainment. Foxx was rehearsing a scene for the CBS series The Royal Family at a Paramount Studios sound stage when he collapsed. He is best known for his role as a cantankerous Watts junk peddler on Sanford and Son. The show lasted from 1972-77. Demond Wilson played his long-suffering son, Lamont. The bow-legged, foul-mouthed comedian was a frequent headliner in Las Vegas before starting work on The Royal Family.

Actress Sheila Florance dies at 75

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Actress Sheila Florance died of cancer Saturday, a week after winning Australia's top acting award for her portrayal of a woman dying of cancer. She was 75. "A Woman's Tale" was specially written for Ms. Florance, who had six operations to remove cancerous growths over the past two years. She died in a Melbourne hospital. Ms. Florance was best known for her role as Lizzie Borden in the Australian television series Prisoner. The series also was broadcast in Britain as Cell Block H. A Woman's Tale was her first major movie role in an acting career spanning more than five decades. Last week, it earned her the Australian Film Institute's Best Actress Award. Personal friend and media personality Roland Roache said Ms. Florance touched many in the entertainment industry because she was "a real Aussie battler." He said they had considered the twice-married Ms. Florance "indestructible."

U.S. crew member returns to Biosphere II

TUCSON, Ariz (AP) — A crew member of the Biosphere II environmental laboratory who severed her fingertip returned to the sealed prototype space colony Friday after surgery. Jayne Poynter, the lab's farm manager, was taken to University Medical Centre, where her finger was surgically closed after a graft to keep the top half inch of the finger failed. "I feel fine. I'm looking forward to going back into the biosphere," Ms. Poynter said, and should be reinforced.

COLUMN

Saint Anthony's law stolen

PADUA, Italy (R) — The jaw of St. Anthony of Padua has been stolen. His devotees hope to recover the relic by invoking the saint's traditional power to locate lost objects. Millions of Italians were outraged when three men held pilgrims at gunpoint in the basilica of St. Anthony Thursday and snatched the gold-plated silver cup, inscribed with rubies and sapphires, containing the "saint's chin." The basilica was crowded with the faithful Friday as friars sang and chanted to invoke the saint's help in returning one of the Roman Catholic Church's most precious icons. "They've been singing to invoke the saint to, in effect, find himself," said local journalist Aldo Conello. Police said the thieves might hold the relic for ransom. "This sacrilegious act touches the heart of Paduans in one of the things that they hold most dear. But it also has world-wide repercussions, given the universal devotion of the saint," said Padua's Bishop Antonio Mattiazzo.

Doctors used laser to stop heart attack

MIAMI (AP) — A University of Miami cardiologist has said he stopped a man's heart attack by breaking up a clot using a laser in a first-of-its-kind procedure. But experts treated the report with skepticism. Dr. Eduardo Demarchena said the operation provided evidence that laser technology may be another way to prevent damage from massive heart attacks, especially in patients who can't receive anti-clotting agents, known as thrombolytics. Carlos Baba, 56, was having an acute heart attack when he arrived at Jackson Memorial Hospital's emergency room Oct. 3. Because he also suffered a recent stroke, anti-clotting drugs might have caused bleeding in his brain, Dr. Demarchena said. Most patients in Baba's condition are treated with balloon angioplasty, a procedure in which a catheter is inserted and the balloon briefly inflated to clear a blood vessel. In Baba's case, a clot blocked the coronary artery. But Dr. Demarchena decided to use the laser instead. "It basically disintegrated the clot, allowing blood flow to go into the coronary artery," Dr. Demarchena said. "We don't know of any other cases of laser angioplasty used in this setting," Dr. Spencer B. King III, director of the Centre For Angioplasty at Emory University in Atlanta, said balloons are quite effective in stopping heart attacks, and that other types of lasers have often been used to open arteries in non-emergency situations.

Mock turtle swoop puts S. Korean in court

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian prosecutors are seeking a 10-month jail term and 10 million rupiah (\$5,078) fine for a South Korean accused of trying to smuggle turtles out the country, the Jakarta Post has reported. It quoted one prosecutor as saying shipping consultant Myung Shik-Sin tried in May to export more than 900 dead turtles after falsely describing them in documents as handicrafts. A verdict may be given later this month. Indonesia bans trade in endangered species, including turtles.

Elderly Japanese increasingly turning to crime

TOKYO (R) — Elderly Japanese are increasingly turning to crime because of lack of family support, the Justice Ministry said in an annual report Tuesday. The report said 1,990 people over the age of 60 were serving jail terms against 1,820 a year before. "Many of the elderly committed crimes because they had been alienated from the family," a ministry official said. "Some of them have even tried to re-enter prison purposely because they have no other place to go." The report said the elderly accounted for about five per cent of Japan's prison inmates, compared with between 1.0 and 1.3 per cent in Sweden, France and Britain. Traffic-related offences led the list of crimes committed by the elderly, followed by homicide, forgery and larceny. Total reported crimes for all ages stood at 2.2 million cases in 1990, about 43,000 lower than in 1989. "Japan has a fast-aging population and we should think more about improving welfare, after looking at the figures," the official said.

Major rallies party for elections

BLACKPOOL, England (AP) — Prime Minister John Major, rallying his Conservative Party Friday for next year's election, called for obliterating social barriers at home, preserving sovereignty within Europe and curbing the nuclear ambitions of Iraq.

Delegates at the Conservatives' annual conference cheered wildly, waved Union Jacks and joined in a thundering chorus of "land of hope and glory" in an outpouring for their new leader. But it was overlaid with nostalgia for Margaret Thatcher, ousted by party lawmakers in November.

"We owe Margaret a great debt," said Mr. Major, 48, presiding for the first time at a party conference.

"But the greatest tribute we can pay her is to do as she did. To win, and win, and win again," he said of the former prime minister who led the party to election victories in 1979, 1983 and 1987.

As Mr. Major threaded his way through the throng at the end of the four-day conference, the cheering echoed the rapturous reception for Mrs. Thatcher Wednesday. She made her only conference appearance then, taking her seat on the top podium flanked by many of the men she feels betrayed her.

"Some people ask whether we will have a different sort of Conservatism in the future," said Mr. Major. "Of course we will. We all bring our own beliefs, our own instincts and our own experiences to politics."

A year ago, the Tories were 14 points behind. The party wiped out that gap by dumping Mrs. Thatcher, but the two parties now run neck and neck.

Mr. Major must call an election by July when the government's five-year terms expires.

He is banking on the economy moving further out of recession by the spring and a squeeze on inflation. It is now at a 3½ year low of 4.1 per cent, but unemployment is at 8.6 per cent and rising — with 16,000 new job losses announced by British Telecom on Friday.

On European union, which has split the Conservatives between Mrs. Thatcher's followers and Mr. Major's more conciliatory policy, the prime minister stiffened his approach.

"In no circumstances... will a Conservative government give up the right... to take the crucial decisions about our security, our foreign policy, our defence," he said.

Leaders of the 12-nation European community meet in December to try to complete a new political and economic treaty. On Iraq, Mr. Major said President Hussein was still trying to keep nuclear assets scheduled for destruction at the end of the Gulf war.

"One way or another that nuclear capacity must go. I hope it will go peacefully. If not, it must go by force."

Mr. Major, Britain's youngest prime minister this century, focused on the main policy initiative of his 10 months in office, a citizens charter promising better public services.

Dotting his speech with references to his own early struggles as the son of a former circus performer, Mr. Major said he aimed to break down "the false and futile divisions, based on class and envy, that have been around for generations."

Ukraine to create independent army

KIEV, USSR (AP) — Parliament in the Ukraine has approved a plan to create an independent army of 400,000 men in ground, naval and air forces.

Draft laws to be discussed by parliament in the next three weeks would provide the legal foundation for the armed forces, which lawmakers hope would be formed in the second half of the 1990s.

In the wake of the failed August coup and collapse of Soviet central authority, several other of the remaining 12 republics have announced plans to form their own armed forces. Like the Ukraine, these forces are now home guards with light weapons.

The plan on creating an armed force for the Ukraine — the second most populous Soviet republic — was approved in a closed session of parliament. No vote total was given.

The republic currently has no tanks, ships, aircraft or even weapons of its own, aside from small arms, but hopes to acquire part of the Soviet Navy's Black Sea fleet to defend its coast.

Future conscripts and budget contributions to the Soviet military will be supplied only for a centralised force controlling strategic defence, according to the plan agreed to by lawmakers Friday.

Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov strongly opposes the plans and has sent a

letter to Ukrainian military units demanding they remain loyal to the Soviet constitution. Several regiments based in the Ukraine already have said they will switch their allegiance to the Ukrainian parliament, according to the republic's Defence Ministry.

There are between 1 million and 1.5 million Soviet troops in the Ukraine.

The first Ukrainian Unit to be formed in the coming months will be a National Guard for the republic, initially about 20,000 to 30,000 men, based largely on Ukrainians serving as Soviet Interior Ministry troops. They will be armed only with light weapons.

"The Ukraine's armed forces will be used exclusively for defence," said Vasil Durdinets, chairman of parliament's Defence Commission. "These laws will show the world the Ukraine is a peace-loving nation."

Meanwhile, Kirgizia held its first popular presidential election Saturday, but incumbent Askar Akayev ran unopposed in the Central Asian republic amid complaints he kept opponents off the ballot.

Mr. Akayev, who has staked out an ambitious reform programme, contends it will take many years to fully implement democracy and establish a market economy in the predominantly Muslim region.

Polls opened Saturday morning

as scheduled. There were no immediate reports on the voting in Kirgizia, one of the smallest and least developed Soviet republics.

An opposition leader said Friday he would boycott the presidential election because Mr. Akayev was alone on the ballot, and warned he may become "an ancestor of the second generation."

"It is said that we all unanimously support one candidacy. That is a lie," said Usup Chonay, a leader of the Democratic Movement of Kirgizia.

During a television interview Thursday, Mr. Akayev defended the absence of opposition candidates, saying: "Other parties were not ready to put forward their candidates."

"I promise that in the next presidential election, there will be several interesting candidates," he said.

But, according to Mr. Chonay, Mr. Akayev gave the Democratic Movement only five days to collect the 25,000 signatures needed to put a candidate's name on the ballot and refused pleas to postpone the deadline.

Mr. Akayev, 45, was elected president by parliament a year ago during a crisis resulting from ethnic fighting the previous summer between Kirgiz and Uzbek residents of Osh, a city between Kirgizia and Uzbekistan. Estimates of the number killed range from 200 to 1,000.

Moscow council votes to eliminate KGB

MOSCOW (AP) — The ruling state council tumbled a pillar of Communist power in voting Friday to eliminate the once dreaded KGB secret police, but followed Soviet tradition in creating a replacement.

The state council formed three new services on the basis of the old KGB: An independent Central Intelligence Service, an Inter-republican Counterintelligence Service, and a state committee to guard the country's borders, said an official statement reported on TASS.

Another section of the KGB, foreign intelligence, had already been split from the agency altogether by President Mikhail Gorbachev, who on Sept. 30 named longtime aide Yevgeny Primakov to head the service.

The council's decision intensified efforts to decentralise the KGB following the abortive August coup to oust Mr. Gorbachev by hardliners, including former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov. The Soviet secret police has its roots in pre-revolutionary Russia, where the czar's Okhrana was used to spy on imperial opponents, including Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin.

A powerful security apparatus was one of the first Soviet institutions created by the Bolsheviks after they seized power in 1917.

The Communist Party relied on the secret police to silence opponents, plant disinformation and provide intelligence on its enemies. During Josef Stalin's rule, the secret police were responsible for the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens during the great terror.

Khmer Rouge moving refugees back, defying peace accord

BANGKOK (AP) — A United Nations official said Saturday that plans by the Khmer Rouge to force 43,000 refugees into dangerous rebel zones in Cambodia would violate a U.N.-brokered peace accord.

In apparent preparation for moving the refugees at Site 5 Camp out of Thailand, the Marxist Cambodian guerrillas detained the camp's elected civilian leaders, replaced them with military hardliners on Oct. 4, and sent armed soldiers into the camp.

Many of the refugees have appealed to Western relief officials for protection from the guerrillas, said S.A.M.S. Kibria, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Cambodian humanitarian aid programmes.

These reports are extremely disturbing and are of the utmost concern to the U.N., he said in a statement.

"Any such attempts to move these populations would be in

conflict with the draft peace settlement for Cambodia which is due to be signed on Oct. 23 in Paris and would be contrary to the agreed U.N. repatriation plan," he said.

Mr. Kibria said he was raising the matter with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the president of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, which groups the warring factions, and with Thailand's foreign minister.

Mr. Kibria asked the Thai government to allow fearful refugees to leave Site 5 for other U.N.-aided camps.

The Thai military has backed the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge, the most potent of three guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government, apparently want to move the refugees to maintain control over them for use in future elections.

Thomas, Hill fail to resolve doubts at U.S. Senate clash

WASHINGTON (R) — Starting testimony about kinky sex has left many senators doubtful of his telling the truth — U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas or his accuser, law Professor Anita Hill.

The two black lawyers clashed in a long day and night of emotional evidence Friday in a row that has touched off nationwide debate over sexual harassment against working women.

Prof. Hill charged Judge Thomas with a litany of sexual harassment which Judge Thomas denounced as "sleaze," calling a televised Senate inquiry "a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks."

"We're still left in a great quandary," Democratic Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama said after Thomas categorically de-

nied Prof. Hill's graphic allegations of sexual misconduct by him when they worked together a decade ago.

"This is not decided," Chairman Joseph Biden of Delaware said after the 12-hour nationally televised Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Sen. Biden, a Democrat, said Judge Thomas should be given the benefit of the doubt, if there was one.

Judge Thomas, a conservative federal judge, returns for more questioning Saturday along with other witnesses who will vouch for Prof. Hill or Judge Thomas.

"This is a travesty. This is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks," Judge Thomas replied angrily after Prof. Hill testified. "I deny each and every allegation against me today."